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Netanyahu Not Committed to Oslo Accords

CAIRO — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "hates" Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, but realizes he must deal with "reality", Israel's new ambassador to the U.S. said in an interview Sunday.

"We are in the presence of a man who hates Arafat and doesn't consider him worthy to sit at the negotiating table," Eliahu ben Elissar said of Netanyahu in the Arab daily *Al-Hayat*, received in Cairo.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Zimbabwean FM Arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN — Zimbabwean Minister of Foreign Affairs Stan Mudenge arrived in Tehran yesterday morning to participate in the first session of joint Iran-Zimbabwe economic commission.

The Zimbabwean minister, who is heading a high-level politico-economic delegation, was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Iran and Pakistan Underline Unity Among Muslims



NATEQ NOURI



GILANI

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Addressing an open session of the Majlis at the end of his visit to Iran, Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, Seyed Yusuf Reza Gilani said that Iran and Pakistan give top priority to the Islamic ideology.

Gilani underlined that Iran and Pakistan should spare no efforts to revive unity among Muslims throughout the world.

He further expressed satisfaction over the process of parliamentary elections in Iran and called for further exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries.

Pakistan attaches great importance to the expansion of its friendly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Gilani noted.

On the bilateral economic and industrial relations between Iran and Pakistan, he said that the two sides have taken key measures in this regard.

Referring to the joint venture for setting up an oil refinery and production of gas pipelines, Gilani expressed hope that the two countries would discuss more industrial plans in the next session of their joint economic commission.

Elaborating on Pakistan's foreign policy, Gilani said: as a peace-loving country, Pakistan does not intend to interfere in any country's internal affairs. One of the main principles of Pakistan's foreign policy is to maintain friendly relations with its neighbors.

On the Kashmir's issue, Gilani underlined that Pakistan wants to settle the crisis of Kashmir through UN resolutions, adding that his country warmly welcomes President Rafsanjani's recommendations in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Majlis Speaker, Hojatolleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri stressed that the Islamic countries should defuse U.S. hostile plots through strengthening unity and expansion of relations among themselves.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports regional peace and security and believes that regional disputes should settled through peaceful negotiations.

Nateq Nouri further voiced Iran's readiness to mediate between India and Pakistan to settle

(Contd on Pg.14)

Assad Holds Talks With Egyptian FM

LATTAKIA, Syria — Syrian President Hafez al-Assad held talks here Sunday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa on the latest moves in the peace process with Israel, officials said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara also took part in the talks in the northern coastal town of Lattakia, presidential spokesman Jibran Kuriyeh said.

Mussa told journalists before leaving Cairo he would deliver a message to Assad from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during the short "workine visit".

"We will inform Syrian officials of the results of the visit to Cairo by Israeli Prime Minister

(Contd on Pg.14)

President Stresses on Multilateral Cooperation in C.Asia

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Georgian Foreign Minister, Irakli Menagari Shrili, here yesterday called on President Akabar Hashemi Rafsanjani and discussed with him regional and bilateral issues.

Conveying the best regards of President Edward Shevardnadzeh to President Rafsanjani, he said, Georgia attaches special importance to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and that his country is eager to implement agreements reached between the two countries.

Discussing plans to buy energy and gas from Iran, expansion of transportation facilities between the two countries, and expansion of bilateral and multilateral ties are among the topic the Georgian official has discussed with Iranian officials.

He expressed satisfaction over his trip to Iran.

The Georgian official briefed Rafsanjani on latest developments in his country, saying, maintaining peace and stability in Caucasus needs Iran's assistance.

President Rafsanjani told the Georgian official that there are suitable grounds for expansion of ties between the two countries.

Stressing the need for multilateral cooperation in Central Asian region, Rafsanjani said, such a cooperation would reduce the costs, help better utilization of resources, and accelerate the pace of trade swaps.

President Rafsanjani announced Iran's readiness to help Georgia overcome its problems.

Arab League Head Seeks French Support for Peace

CAIRO — Arab League head Esmat Abdel Meguid left here for Paris on Sunday, looking to drum up French support in the peace process with Israel.

Abdel Meguid told journalists before leaving that he would meet President Jacques Chirac and other top officials for talks on "the future of the peace process" during his four-day stay in France.

"I will underline the importance of the French role and ask for an increasing European role in informing Israel of the dangers in failing to stick to the bases of the peace process," Abdel Meguid said.

Abdel Meguid will also sign a special accord in Paris between the league and the UN cultural agency UNESCO on "cooperation in providing aid to the Palestinians in educations, communications, culture and identity."

On Thursday the league secretary general will head to Beirut where he will meet President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri to discuss Arab effort to help Lebanon rebuild after Israel's "Grapes of Wrath" operation against South Lebanon in April.

(Contd on Pg.14)

Russian Offensive Continues Against Chechen Forces

MOSCOW — Russian warplanes resumed their bombardment of Chechen positions around the southern village of Shatoi on Sunday for a second consecutive day, the Interfax agency reported.

Both sides were claiming to have inflicted heavy losses,

(Contd on Pg.14)



MOSCOW, Russian Federation (July 20): Militiamen arrest a demonstrator who accused Moscow authorities of a genocide in Chechnya, in Moscow. Russian planes, artillery and infantry on Saturday launched a massive attack in the mountainous region near the village of Shatoi to destroy a Chechen base.

(AFP PHOTO)

Remains of Anti-Zionist Fighters Arrive

KFAR TEBNIT, Lebanon — Seventeen trucks transporting the remains of 123 anti-Zionist fighters arrived Sunday at a crossing point linking the Israeli-occupied "security zone" and the rest of South Lebanon, an AFP correspondent said.

The vehicles arrived under Red Cross escort from inside the security zone as Israel announced that a large-scale swap of dead soldiers, prisoners and the remains of activists had been completed "successfully."

The operation is the fruit of months of secret negotiations mediated by Germany, under which Hezbollah turned over earlier Sunday the bodies of two Israeli soldiers in return for dead activists and 45 prisoners.

The trucks, chartered by the Red Cross in Lebanon, began rolling across the Kfar Tebnit passage while a bus carrying a first batch of 20 prisoners from Khiyam, inside the zone, waited its turn to cross over, they said.

They were placed on a bus and were waiting to be taken to Kfar Tebnit, one of five crossing points linking the zone with the rest of South Lebanon, and back to freedom.

Under the terms of the accord, the Hezbollah surrendered earlier Sunday the bodies of two Israeli soldiers killed in the 1980s, and released 17 pro-Israeli mercenaries.

Israel, for its part, trucked into the "security zone" the remains of 123 anti-Zionist fighters.

A spokesman for the ICRC in South Lebanon said the remains of the activists were loaded onto

(Contd on Pg.14)

Amnesty International Calls For Arms Embargo on Afghanistan

AI Voices Concern Over Taleban Killing of Civilians

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Amnesty International Sunday called for a stoppage of arms shipments into Afghanistan, saying the supply of weapons to rival factions aggravated human rights abuses in the country.

A three-member team from the London-based group expressed "grave" concern over the human rights consequences of the armed conflict after a week-long tour of Afghanistan.

Addressing a news conference here the team members also voiced concern over "indiscriminate killing" of civilians in rocket attacks by Taleban militia on residential areas in Kabul.

Led by the organization's Asia director, Rory Mungoven, the mission visited Kabul and northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif during the first tour of Afghanistan by an Amensty team in 14 years.

Mungoven said the delegation met interior and foreign ministers in Kabul and Uzbek leader General Abdul Rashid Dostam and his police and security chiefs in Mazar-i-Sharif.

The mission discussed ways to prorect human rights in areas un-

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In the Name of Allah

Say: O my people! act according to your ability; I too am acting; so you will soon come to know, for whom (of us) will be the (good) end of the abode; surely the unjust shall not be successful.

(HOLY QORAN) (6:135)

OPINION

International Bodies Must Avert Bloodshed in Algeria

Algeria's President Liamine Zeroual concluded a series of talks with the leaders of the Algerian parties on the political future of that country this weekend.

The ruling junta, along with 12 other parties, agreed to set up three mixed-party commissions to prepare for a national political conference, a referendum on constitutional changes and legislative election to be held early next year.

Nevertheless, as it seems, the ruling junta in Algeria is not serious about putting an end to the bloodshed in that Muslim country for various reasons. The exclusion of the main opposition group, Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), from the talks points to the insincerity of the Algerian leaders. Besides, President Zeroual made it quite clear he was determined to keep the movement out of the country's political scene.

To properly judge the social status of the FIS in Algeria, it will help one to recall that, in January 1992, the movement would have won the second round of legislative elections if the ruling junta had not annulled the elections. Consequently, although resorting to violence is not approved of, the FIS has been forced to do so in order to uphold and restore its national rights.

Above all, those countries that shed crocodile tears for the people in Cuba, China and other parts of the world claiming those nations are suffering from a lack of democracy gave the green light to the Algerian ruling clique encouraging them to annul popular elections.

So far, some 50,000 to 70,000 people have been killed in Algeria since the annulment of the 1992 elections. It is clear that, as long as the Algerian leaders continue to ignore the FIS, that country will inevitably witness more bloodshed.

In other words, the decisions made by the Algerian government will not gain the support of the masses unless the people's true representatives, the FIS members, are invited to take part in the process of decision-making in that country.

Generally speaking, being allowed to elect their representatives is one of the fundamental rights of the people living anywhere in the world. Such a right has been clearly recognized and specified by the UN Charter. Nonetheless, adopting policies of double standard by the so-called patrons of the human rights is gradually becoming a common act.

The onus is on the international bodies, especially the United Nations, to bring the ruling junta in Algiers to their senses, forcing them to accept the vote of the people.

Media Shouldering Great Responsibility in Reflecting Realities

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — While the country is under the attack of imperialist disinformation campaign, it is the inevitable duty of the Iranian media to reflect a fair and righteous picture of the Islamic Republic, said President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Sunday.

The president made the remark in a meeting with members of the Headquarters for Holding Ceremonies on the Government Week.

The president termed the existing media coverage on the developments of the country inadequate calling for a more large-scale and comprehensive publicity for a better introduction of the country development. This can have great impact on the foreigner's concept of the realities about Iran.

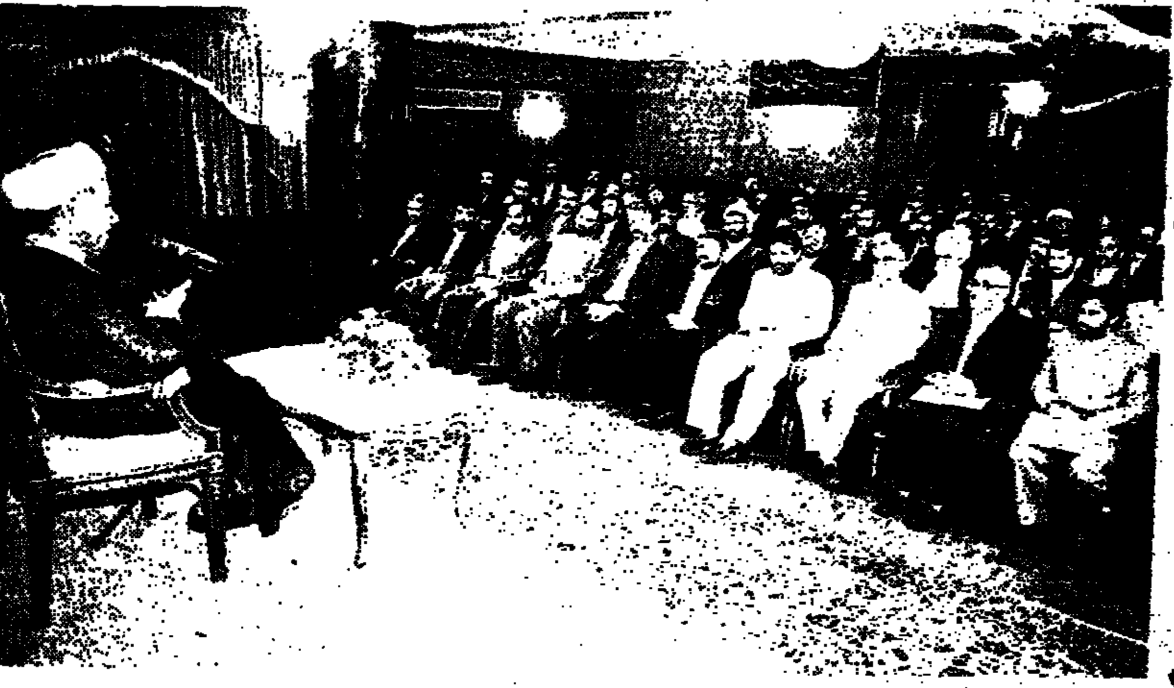
President Rafsanjani reiterated that being informed of the country's facts and developments is the right of the nation and that the Iranian officials should take the issue seriously.

The president also said that if the people are informed of the government's achievements, they will be more hopeful and optimistic about their bright future.

He added that the country's reconstruction, implemented successfully, has foiled ominous propaganda fabricated by the enemies.

He also praised people's participation in all scenes and their commitment to the Islamic system.

Also present at the meeting was the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mostafa Mirsalim, who briefed the president on the programs to be held during the Government Week.



TEHRAN (July 21) — President Rafsanjani addresses members of the Headquarters for Holding Ceremonies on the Government Week, here Sunday.

First Vice President Invited to Visit Kyrgyzstan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Tehran, Husseinov, called on Iran's First Vice President Hassan Habibi.

According to IRNA, Husseinov submitted to Habibi an invitation of Kyrgyz Prime Minister Apas Jumagulov to pay a visit to Bishkek.

The Kyrgyz diplomat underscored the interest of his country's officials in expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran within the framework of the Joint Economic Commission, hoping that the first vice president's official visit to Kyrgyzstan would further pave the ground for the promotion of relations between the two neighboring nations.

Iran's first vice president accepted Jumagulov's official invitation and expressed hope to pay an official visit in the near future.

Habibi stressed the need for a followup and the execution of the terms of accord reached at Iran-Kyrgyz Joint Economic Commission.

He pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran had experience in technical and industrial fields, adding that the friendly regional countries especifically the Central Asian republics could reap benefit from the rich experiences, paving the way for the promotion of technical cooperation and trade relations.

Habibi finally stressed the need for cultural exchange between the two countries.

Besharati Lauds Law Enforcement Forces for Dedication

TEHRAN — Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said here Saturday that the Law Enforcement Forces of Iran have done a good job over the past year..

Besharati who was speaking to Law Enforcement Forces commanders and sub-commanders in Tehran on the occasion of the Law Enforcement Week, said the protectors of peace were in fact guardians of the achievements and values of the Islamic Revolution.

He said that the forces' fight against trafficking, dealings in contraband and also against publicly or privately committed vices was some sort of a holy Jihad. He also expressed hope that an improvement in budget allocations for the forces would further improve its performance at the national level.

Before his address to the group, commander of the Law Enforcement Forces Brigadier Reza Seifollahi offered a summary report to the interior minister of the status of the forces in Iran. *(IRNA)*

Toygan: Tehran-Ankara Determined to Enhance Ties

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Constructive talks have been held between the visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Affairs Alaeddin Boroujerdi and the Turkish high-ranking officials, said the Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Toygan in Ankara Saturday.

Speaking at the farewell ceremony of Boroujerdi at Ankara Airport, Toygan said the Iranian official held talks with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and ministers of foreign affairs, the interior and energy and national resources on issues of mutual interest.

Toygan said the outcome of the negotiations indicated that the two nations are resolved at developing closer relations.

He pointed out that the two countries would cooperate in all areas including trade exchange and export of Iranian gas to Turkey.

The Turkish official indicated that the issue of the border incident has been settled and that the two sides have come to terms.

He said Turkish Minister of the Interior Mehmet Aghar was expected to pay a visit to Tehran soon in order to discuss border

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Rafsanjani Condoles Syrian Counterpart

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Saturday sent a condolence message to his Syrian counterpart, President Hafez Assad, on his brother's demise, an IRNA report said.

President Rafsanjani prayed for success and prosperity for the Syrian nation and government and a long and prosperous life for the Syrian president.

Turkish Students Graduate at Farsi Language Center in Ankara

ANKARA — Over 140 Turkish male and female students attended a graduation ceremony, sponsored by the Culture House of the Islamic Republic of Iran, held at the Persian Language Center here on Saturday.

At the ceremony, attended by a number of academic and literary figures of Turkey, certificates were awarded to some 11 students of the course by Iran's Cultural Attache, Zakaria Farzami.

The students had taken up courses in literature, history, translation, conversation, and reading of Persian language.

Most of the students who took up courses at the center hold degrees in different areas of academic studies from universities in Turkey. *(IRNA)*

German Official Praises Iran's Role in Swap Deal

DAMASCUS — Germany praised the Islamic Republic of Iran for its constructive role in making Bonn's mediation efforts successful in finalizing a deal on exchange of bodies and prisoners between the Islamic resistance forces and the Zionist regime.

Speaking to IRNA, German Secretary of State and Coordinator of Intelligence Operations Bernd Schmidbauer added that without Iran's assistance he could not have been able to bring about the swap.

The German mediator and officials of Lebanese Hezbollah agreed Friday night to exchange remains of two Israeli soldiers with bodies of 120 combatants of the Islamic resistance forces.

According to the accord, 16

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Ambassador Calls On Saudi Crown Prince

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohammad Ali Hadi Najafabadi called on Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah ibn Abd al-Aziz as-Saud in Riyadh Saturday.

According to IRNA, in their meeting the two officials reviewed topics for further expanding Iran-Saudi Arabia relations, and agreed on establishment of closer relations.

Iran's Embassy Condemns 'The Times' Allegations

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Embassy in London on Saturday condemned *The Times* allegation on Iran's involvement in a TWA airline crash.

The Boeing 747 plunged into the sea off New York Wednesday night killing 230.

In a telephone conversation with IRNA, the Iranian Embassy said it had protested the "unfounded suggestion".

The embassy said in its letter to *The Times* newspaper that reputable journals do not cite confirmed "terrorists" and rumor mongers as their sources.

Iran's Foreign Ministry has expressed deep sorrow to the bereaved families of the people killed in the incident.

ASEAN Issues 53-Point Communique

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - ASEAN Sunday adopted a 53-point communique which stressed the regional grouping's plans for expanded co-operation as well as its security concerns, including in the South China Sea, AFP reported from Jakarta, Indonesia.

Key passages of the joint communique adopted at the end of ASEAN's 29th annual ministerial meeting:

- Ministers accepted applications of Cambodia and Laos to join in 1997 and granted observer status to Burma. "Thereby, the vision of ASEAN's founders of all ten Southeast Asian countries living in harmony under a single roof came closer to realization."

- ASEAN welcomed China, India and Russia as new dialogue partners.

REGIONAL SECURITY

- Ministers expressed satisfaction at development of the ASEAN regional forum and "took cognizance of the increasing degree of comfort in the interactions among the ARF participants. ... conscious of the increasingly significant role of the ARF in the maintenance of peace and stability in the region, the ministers reiterated that ASEAN should continue to be the driving force of this forum."

- ASEAN noted progress to date in implementing a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in the region. Ministers "stressed the importance of expediting the process of ratification of the (Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone) Treaty by the signatory states so that it will be completed, if possible, before the informal ASEAN Summit in Indonesia in December 1996.

"For the effectiveness of the treaty, they reiterated their call on all nuclear weapons states to extend their cooperation by acceding to the protocol of the treaty. ... they also agreed to consider tabling a draft resolution on the SEANWFZ Treaty in the United Nations General Assembly at an appropriate time."

- While the Asia Pacific region was "relatively stable and peaceful ... they acknowledged that tensions exist in the region as well as in other parts of the world in the face of longstanding disputes which, if not successfully managed, could erupt into conflicts that could threaten regional as well as international stability."

- "The foreign ministers expressed their concern over the situation in the South China Sea, and stressed that several outstanding issues remain a major concern for ASEAN. ... the ministers called for the peaceful resolution of the dispute and self-restraint by parties concerned. ... they endorsed the idea of concluding a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea which will lay the foundation for long term stability in the area and foster understanding among claimant countries."

- "The foreign ministers stressed the importance of freedom of navigation and aviation in the South China Sea."

- Ministers reiterated their belief that resumption of dialogue between North and South Korea "was extremely important for peace and security on the Korean Peninsula." They called for a peace mechanism but emphasized that the 1953 Armistice agreement should remain valid until then.

OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD

- ASEAN welcomed progress in the Middle East but "viewed with concern the current critical phase of the Middle East peace process following the recent general elections in Israel."

- ASEAN welcomed peace agreements on former Yugoslavia and called on all parties to cooperate with the international tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. "The ministers supported the international call for the arrest of those who have been indicted for war crimes, and their removal from Bosnia-Herzegovina as an important condition for the full implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord." They called for international support for the reconstruction and development of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

- ASEAN "called on the nuclear weapons states to refrain from conducting nuclear weapons tests and the conference on disarmament to conclude the negotiation on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996."

- ASEAN "reiterated the importance of reforming and restructuring the United Nations, including the Security Council, so as to democratize its workings and to strengthen its effectiveness. ... they reaffirmed the role of the General Assembly as the highest deliberative and decision-making organ of the UN system...." ministers called for "greater accountability by the council to the General Assembly."

- Ministers noted the "still sizable numbers of remaining boat people in some first asylum countries who have not been repatriated or resettled, thus requiring further common efforts and cooperation for their immediate repatriation."

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

- Ministers noted "the substantial progress made in the negotiations to liberalize trade in unprocessed agricultural products and welcomed the decision to phase in these products into the CEPT Scheme by the year 2010."

- They called for "continued efforts to reduce the impediments to trade and investment in ASEAN." They noted that customs surcharges affecting identified CEPT products would be removed by 1996 and that establishment of a green lane system for cept products would expedite customs clearance.

- "The foreign ministers called for the active participation of the private sector in ASEAN economic programs and activities.... they encouraged the private sector to come up with specific proposals...."

- Ministers welcomed progress in establishing trade and investment linkages between NAFTA and the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA) and "encouraged such linkages with other regional groupings and trading arrangements."

Iran, Azerbaijan Sign MOU on Customs

Tehran Times Service

Tehran — A letter of understanding on customs cooperation was inked in Baku between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the landlocked. Republic of Azerbaijan at the end of visit of the head of Iran's Customs Department. Abdulhussein Vahaji.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by Vahaji and the Head of the Azeri Customs Committee. Kmaluddin Haidarov.

MOU will help the two countries to ease customs operations in the areas of the access of merchandise and passanger luggage through the customs.

It will not only prevent breach of customs regulations but also help customs officials to effectively control drug smugglers.

According to this agreement the two countries will exchang information in related customs areas. Share experience in the field, set up a joint commissions aimed at coordinating the working hours of the border customs of the countries.

Iran has expressed its readiness to set up theoretical and practical training courses for the customs experts of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Haidarov believed that MOU would help bring about a suitable atmosphere for the expansion of the customs relations between the two countries.

He expressed hope that the economic relations between the two nations would also further expand.

Vahaji told IRNA at the end of the meeting that he expected to see a growth in the Azeri customs activities with the completion of customs building at Bile'savar in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He added that construction of a special terminal for the Iranian trucks by Iranian ministry of Roads and Transport in Baku was among the subjects he discussed with the Azeri officials.

During his five-day stay in Baku Vahaji also held talks with Azeri president Heydar Aliyev and Deputy Chairman of the Azeri Majlis Yashar Aliyev. He also paid a visit to the Bile'savar customs office.

Vahaji left baku for a visit to the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan aimed at reviewing ways of customs cooperation between Iran and Nakhichevan.

Over 24m Shares of Factories Ceded to Workers

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Over 24 million shares of manufacturing units have been ceded to workers so far, Deputy Minsiter of Labor and Social Affairs for Parliamentary Affairs Habib Ajayebi said here Saturday.

Ajayebi, addressing a group of workers at Iran Carton Making Company on Saturday, said the shares ceded to the workers belonged to 187 manufacturing units.

He said that since March 20, over 7,267,160 shares, worth Rls. 45 billion, had been ceded to 26,000 workers.

9 Dams to Be Constructed by End of 2nd 5-Year Plan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Nine dams are to be put into operation in Fars Province by the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1995-1999).

The dams, including Kowsar, Sibouyeh, Qir, Mirza-ye-Shirazi, Re'is Ali Delvari, Firouzabad, Shah Qasem, Izadkhast and Molla Sadra, are expected to cost about Rls.650 billion in their construction, IRNA reported.

The implementation plan for the construction of six of the dams, including Salman Farsi, Mirza-ye-Shirazi, Sibouyeh, Firouzabad, Izadkhast and Molla Sadra, was launched last year (March 21, 1995-March 19, 1996).

According to Managing Director of Fars, Boushehr and Kohkilouyeh-Boyerahmad Regional Water Board, Khalil Rezaiyan, annually 7 billion cubic meters of water is being wasted. However, with the construction of six dams, three billion cubic meters of water will be preserved, which in turn, will provide water for irrigating approximately 130,000 hectares of regional farmlands.

According to Rezaiyan, besides irrigating about 130,000 hectares of regional farmlands, the six dams would also generate 120 megawatts of electricity annually.

Sibouyeh dam, located at Tang Bolaghi 80 kilometers northeast of Shiraz, tops the list.

The 60-meter high dam, which has a reservoir capacity of 200 million cubic meters of water is capable of supporting 16,000 hectares of arable land.

Meanwhile, the 130-meter high Qir dam, which has the reservoir capacity of about 1.4 billion cubic meters, is located on Aara-Aghan River in Tang Karzin, 180 kms south of Shiraz and 20 kms from Qir town.

The dam would be important for supplying regional inhabitants with 4 million cubic meters of potable water and preserving 352 million cubic meters for agriculture.

Water experts expect the dam to generate about eight megawatts power besides providing water for 17,000 hectares of farmlands at Dasht Kavar and Khafr regions.

According to Rezaiyan studies are underway for the construction of five more dams which will hold over 2.8 billion cubic meters of water, generate 480 megawatts of power and support 150,000 hectares of cultivable land in the region.

353,908 Shares Traded at TSE

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A total of 353,908 shares, worth over Rls. 2 billion, were traded in 472 turns for 355 applicants here at Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) on Saturday.

In Saturday's deals, shares of 22 companies increased, while those of 15 others suffered decline.

General index price of shares for Saturday reached over 2,022.03 points, showing a drop of 4.38 points lower than Wednesday.

Kyrgyz Ambassador Invites Iranian Constructors

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Kyrgyz Ambassador to Tehran yesterday invited Iranian cotractors to contribute to road building in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

In his meeting here with Roads and Transportation Minister of Iran Akbar Torkan the Kyrgyz ambassador also discussed topics in relation to a proposed regular bus service between Mashhad, Khorassan Province of Iran, and Bishkek, and a regular air service between the two cities, IRNA reported.

The Roads and Transportation Minister of Iran told the Kyrgyz ambassador that Iranian contractors would be willing to contribute to all road-building projects in that republic especially in the area of tunnel building, and foundation work.

Women and the Environment

PART 2

Key to the strategy's success is the full participation not only of families and women but of children. In many countries, both primary schools and informal educational settings have provided children with both the information and means to help the environment. In Madagascar, for example, teaching about the environment has been combined with nutrition and hygiene education as part of the primary school curriculum. Both teachers and students have put their learning into practice by starting a school garden. There is no greater way to assure sustainability than to reach the younger generations.

Although it receives funds, PEC is not a project *per se*. It is more of a mindset, reminding UNICEF program officers and collaborating partners to consider a project's environmental sustainability, just as they would consider its effect on achieving year 2000 goals, adopted at the World Summit for Children in 1990.

Primary environmental care encourages renewable use of local resources. In Botswana, for example, a root known as 'devil's claw' has become a major drought-proof source of income. Women came up with the idea to collect and sell the medicinal plant during the slack agricultural season. Communities in Botswana have also developed aprofitable sustainable farming system with a 'whole farm' approach that integrates traditional crops, new crops, medicinal plants,trees and livestock into a stable ecological system. Approximately 70 percent of the beneficiaries are women.

In Nepal, where paper making has a long history, UNICEF worked with an NGO that introduced a traditional technology making paper out of the bark of *Lokta* bushes, a substance praised for its strength and durability. The industry, which employed men and women during agriculture's slack season, created paper that was sold to UNICEF for greeting cards. Between 1981 and 1991, the *Lokta* industry quadrupled its gross income from sales, and is now self-supporting.

From rhetoric to reality

Agenda 21 addressed the crucial place of people at the center of sustainable development. In particular, it recognized women's fundamental contributions to development, as does the Platform for Action for the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Now it is time to bring the rhetoric and the reality together. We must make it clear that the environment cannot be saved without the active and informed participation of the people best situated for the task. Women are the hardest hit by deterioration of the environment but they are also the greatest promise for its future. Women - as consumers, householders, workers and voters - hold the key to a sustainable environment and sustainable development.

Carol Bellamy is the Executive Director of UNICEF.

Women Demand a Sporting Chance

ATLANTA, Georgia (AFP) - Sporting excellence is not a male preserve and an unprecedented number of women will prove the fact at the olympic games here.

Two new sports, and additional events and disciplines in others, means a record number of women will compete in the games.

It makes the hundredth anniversary of the olympics even more of a milestone for women, who were not represented in 1896.

Since then women have come into their own at the games. But it has not been a smooth progression, and obstacles to women's participation still exist.

In 1928, the women's 800 meters sparked a controversy that saw women's races longer than 200 meters banned until 1960.

After some runners collapsed in exhaustion at the end of the race, London's Daily Mail quoted doctors as saying women who took part in such endurance events would "become old too soon."

The New York Times report spoke of "wretched damsels in agonized distress."

In Atlanta, the women's athletics program will substitute the 5,000m for the 3,000m introduced in 1984, and add the triple jump.

Women's football has been added, along with softball. The women's basketball field has expanded from eight to 12 teams, fencing has added women's team and individual epee to foil events, and the women's field hockey tournament will include 10 more games.

An estimated 3,779 women are expected to compete in Atlanta, up from 1,247 in 1976. Some 6,582 men will compete in Atlanta, compared to 4,781 10 years earlier.

"The olympic movement, over its first hundred years, with the exception of the first games, has probably been the most important force encouraging women's sports in the world," said U.S. International Olympic Committee member, and olympic rowing bronze medallist, Anita Defrantz. "Since half the world is made up of women it is just sensible to reach out to women and encourage them to take part in sports."

Recently the IOC urged all national olympic committees to have women make up ten percent of their officials by the year 2000 and twenty percent by the end of 2005.

The IOC also tries to create sporting opportunities for women, even in countries with cultural barriers to such activities.

"We also encourage, in those countries that have religious taboos against women competing in front of men, the opportunity to compete and learn sports even if it is done behind walls and so forth," Defrantz said. "We believe that even in the most fundamentalist countries women will eventually have the opportunity to compete — it just will take longer."

Even in nations where women's participation in sports is commonplace, they face subtle obstacles. The amateur athletic federation, of which Defrantz is president, monitors attitudes toward sportswomen in the United States.

Defrantz said she was encouraged by studies that show more girls between the ages of seven and 18 believe sports are open to them, and she believes better coverage of women's sports in the media has contributed to that.

"The AAF undertook a study in 1989 and then did a follow-up in 1995, and we found in 1989 that televised sports for women lacked the number of statistics, lacked the number of cameras and was burdened with negative assessment of the athletes," she said.

Iranian Women's Social Activities Sound and Honorable

Tehran Times Service

QOM — Iranian women's status in Islamic Iran is significant, said Ms. Ensiyeh Qaemmaqami, adviser to the head of Shahid Beheshti women's hospital.



QAEMMAQAMI

In an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times* yesterday, Qaemmaqami stressed that despite rumors spread by enemies abroad that Iranian women are considered second class citizens and that they are quite limited in performing their social duties, one can observe that in Iran women are active in all aspects of the society.

Even in rural areas women have a more active role than men in conducting financial and family affairs, she added.

In many cases, female employees are more creative and dynamic in fulfilling their duties. They are hard workers and take their responsibilities well, Qaemmaqami said.

"In fact, we can observe that the women are more competent and efficient," she added.

She also noted that men should collaborate with their spouses who work outside the home by sharing the responsibilities for working around the house. Men's role in furthering the role of their spouses cannot be ignored.

Women have a significant part in the family, but they should not be limited to running family affairs only, she opined.

Referring to the Women's Conference held in Beijing, China, Qaemmaqami called it very successful in introducing the true status of women, reflecting facts, and presenting the scope of their activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iranian women presented many constructive proposals that were for the most part, accepted by the conference, she added.

She concluded that during the international gathering, the *hijab* of Iranian women was eye-catching; it was a symbol of their being Iranian.

Ms. Qaemmaqami, 56, received her B.S. degree in nursing in 1964, and her M.S. degree in 1979. She has undertaken several responsibilities in executive affairs, such as instructing, planning and conducting nursing courses at the universities of Tehran and Shahid Beheshti (formerly Melli). She has also served as head of the Nursing and Midwifery Faculty of the University of Tehran.

Women, Just as Much as Men, Decide to Migrate: but for Them the Road Is Harder

Migration decisions are more complex than a man's decision to look for work elsewhere. Men and women who migrate are often doing so as part of a complex family and community process aimed at improving family well-being and survival. New studies reveal special disadvantages for women, says *The State of World Population 1996* repot from UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

In developing countries, most women who migrate to cities do so when they are young, between the ages of 15 and 24, or when they are older, in their late 50s and 60s. The older women are looking for security. They are often widows and divorcees moving to join their children, or childless women. Without a husband or male child to support them, they have quite literally lost their place.

Most of the younger women are looking for the first job, to support their children or their rural families, save for marriage or look for a husband. Some return to start married life: more stay were they are. Outside Muslim societies where women are usually married and do not join the labor force, only about a third of women migrants move with their husband or another family member. Jobs, education and support of children account for the rest.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, in South-East Asia and in the South Pacific, moves for employment are the most common. Farms jobs in rural areas have increased migration among women in South Asia. In South-East Asia, women's migration is a relatively recent phenomenon and has to do with staying longer at school and better job opportunities in urban areas, especially in service jobs. Young women migrants may also be expressing independence in choosing a husband.



On the other hand, young women migrants are more likely to be from poorer (and large) rural families. They may be allowed (or told) to find a job in the city to help meet family expenses, which are growing with the growth of the cash economy. They can find jobs in an office, shop or domestic job more easily than men. And daughters are more likely than sons to send money home.

Women migrants tend to have less education than their male counterparts but this reflects the general difference in women's opportunities, and they have more education than women who do not migrate, even in societies with low levels of female education. Women with more education are more likely to find a "regular" job, and so are more likely to get family approval for the move. Nevertheless they are at a disadvantage when they reach the city, and may find themselves trapped in low-wage employment without the qualifications to advance, but still with too much education for work at home.

For most women there is little change in the type of work they do after they migrate. A third to a half of all female urban migrants find jobs in domestic or personal service. The next most common occupation is sales, either independent or employed by others. Fewer than a quarter find a work in blue or white collar formal jobs.

Trading unpaid domestic labor at home for the same work (though paid) in the city, or cultivating vegetables for selling them, does nothing real for their autonomy. Opportunities for advancement depend on the skills which they bring with them and their resourcefulness in acquiring new skills after they arrive in the city. Though some women are aware

(Contd on Pg. 15)

7th Meeting of Commissions for Women's Affairs to Open

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The 7th meeting of provincial commissions in charge of women's affairs is to start work here today, the Interior Ministry said in a fax made it available to the *Tehran Times*.

Deputies for security and political affairs from governorates across the county, advisors and secretary generals of the women commissions are to attend the two-day meeting.

The participants will discuss practical ways for further promotion of the activities of provincial women's commissions as well as development of the centers for women's social and cultural activities.





Fariman Opens Fire for Olympics

Tehran Times Service

ATLANTA — Lida Fariman became the first woman to represent Iran at the Olympics sincethe 1979 Islamic Revolution when she opened fire in the air rifle event on Saturday.

Iranian women may compete abroad in only five sports — equestrian events, shooting, chess, skiing and sports for the handicapped.

Fariman, 24, wore a green head scarf to keep her hair out of view. She was in a shooting jacket and trousers worn by all competitors.

She failed to qualify for the finals, finishing in 46th place out of 49 starters in the preliminaries.

But she is sure to remember her first games fondly, having had the honour of carrying the Iranian flag during Friday night's opening ceremony.

World Records Launch Games, But Confusion Reigns

ATLANTA — Two world records ignited the Atlanta Olympics on Saturday but the opening day was as deeply marked by some ill-will and a giant dose of confusion.

Fred Deburghgraeve of Belgium swam a world record in the men's 100m breaststroke heats then claimed the gold medal in the final while weightlifter Halil Mutlu, whose name means happy in Turkish, set a snatch world record on his way to gold in the 54 kilogram division.

Happy he was but there was not much joy spreading elswhere in Atlanta, especially in the Chinese camp.

The heat and the chaos of an overburdened transport system, with a report of mutiny by Olympic drivers, has not helped to ease the teething problems of the Atlanta Games.

Organisational lapses and bomb alerts, as well as power cuts and the failure of the Olympic results service are giving Atlanta a bad name.

China ended the first day of competition at the top of the medal table, but they feel distinctly cheated.

Jeered into the Olympic stadium for Friday's opening ceremony, the Chinese have missed out on that southern hospitality Atlanta prides itself on.

The welcome for the Chinese at the Olympic Village where athletes live in student accommodation during the games was less than warm.



BIRMINGHAM, AL, United States (July 20): Argentina's Adrian Lopez Gustavo fights for the ball with U.S. Brian Maisonneuve (L) and Damian Silvera (R) late in Birmingham during their men's football Group A match. Argentina beat the U.S. 3-1.

(AFP PHOTO)

Spain Beat S. Arabia

ORLANDO, Florida — An oscar garcia goal gave Spain a 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia in their Olympic football Group B match here on Saturday.

Both sides missed a host of chances in match played at a furious pace in the Florida heat. Garcia's headed goal came in the 80th minute after the skillful Saudis had dominated much of the second half. (AFP)

French "Softie" Floors Japanese

ATLANTA — French heavyweight David Douillet added an Olympic judo gold to his two World Championship titles at the Atlanta Games on Saturday while the sun set on Japan's fame in their own sport.

The Japanese will go home for the first time without an Olympic medal either in the heavyweight or open division as former four-time world champion Naoya Ogawa bowed out to douillet in the semi-finals and was beaten by German Frank Moeller in a bronze medal playoff.

The Olympic open-weight contest was abolished after the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

The first day of judo also saw defending heavyweight champion David Khakhaleichvili of Georgia, who broke his long victory drought by winning the European title in May, disqualified for coming late to the weigh-in at the athletes village. (AFP)

Six-Time Champion Begins His Assault on the Seventh

ATLANTA — Vitaly Scherbo, one of the most decorated gymnasts of the modern era, began his assault on yet another Olympic title here Saturday with a near-perfect opening day routine in the men's team competition.

Scherbo, who won six gold medals in 1992 and is now primed to capture a seventh, said afterwards: "Everything went perfectly.

"It's even better than I expected. And the team looked great."

Thanks to Scherbo, Belarus is in the medal hunt following Saturday's compulsary exercises right behind the world's top gymnastics powers Russia and China after day one of the men's competition.

The 24-year-old also did himself a power of good in his chase for the individual all-around title, placing a close second to Russia's Alexei Nemov.

Scherbo has a chance to surpass the record of Sawao Kato of Japan, who won eight gold medals in three Olympics from 1968 to 76, the most by a male gymnast. (AFP)

Smith Puts Ireland on Swimming Map

ATLANTA — Michelle Smith made Ireland's first Olympic swimming medal a golden one on Saturday with a victory in the 400m individual medley.

She also won the right to go for more gold when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed to let her swim the 400m freestyle, even though her qualifying time was recorded 24 hours after the deadline.

The 26-year-old Smith is also entered in the 200m medley, the 200m freestyle and the 100m and 200m butterfly.

Smith made her Olympic debut in 1988 and also competed in Barcelona, but she didn't make a real mark on the international scene until the 1995 European Championships, where she won the 200m butterfly and 200m medley and finished second in the 400m.

Last year she also won the short-course World Cup title.

She credits training tips from husband Erik de Bruin, a Dutch discus and shot record-holder who has been banned for using steroids, with putting her in the fast lane. (AFP)

Shahbaz Leads Pakistan to Easy Win Over U.S.

ATLANTA — Shahbaz Ahmed showed why Pakistan were desperate to get him a last-minute entry for the Atlanta Olympics by producing a brilliant display against hosts the United States on Saturday.

The mercurial striker took the field less than 24 hours after reaching Atlanta and set up two early goals in the world champions' 4-0 win over their hosts in a Group A match.

Shahbaz, who was not selected in the original squad after a row with his country's hockey oficials, heard that he had been granted entry by the International Hockey Federation only after reaching Atlanta on Friday evening.

It must have come as a relief to coach Samiullah Siddiqui that Shahbaz had patched up his differences, for the 32-year-old wizard, replacing Mohammad Nadeem in the '6-man squad, got to work immediately.

Coming on after the opening nine minutes, Shahbaz set up Pakistan's first goal the very next minute with a superb left flick to his unmarked namesake Muhammad Shahbaz, who made no mistake.

Six minutes later, Shahbaz made a solo run on the left and produced another exquisite flick to leave Kamran Ashaf with an easy opening.

Furious Indian Coach Lambasts Players

ATLANTA — A furious Indian coach launched a scathing attack against his players after seeing his side crash 1-0 to lowly Argentina in their opening match.

"We should have scored at least three goals, but managed none," complained coach Cedric d'Souza. "The fowards were never in the right place when the passes came.

Even spearhead Dhanraj Pillay had an off-day as the Argentine defence kept a tight watch on the speedy striker.

But D'Souza that all was not lost for his side who face Germany on Monday.

Argetina scored the match winner when Pablo Lombi hit home from Argentina's third penalty corner in the 45th minute.

The Indians, eight-time Olympic champions and coming into the tournament boasting of their best squad in recent years, disappointed their large band of supporters with a listless display.

Sabu Varkey and Mukesh Kumar missed two easy sitters and four penalty corner hits — India's known weakness — went wide.

The Indians fell far short of their expected performance which won them a stunning 5-2 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in the South Asian Games last year and a 4-1 triumph over the Netherlands in the pre-Olympic qualifier.

The defeat, following Pakistan's 4-0 rout of the United States and Spain's shock 1-0 win over holders Germany, leaves India the daunting prospect of having to win all their four remaining Group A matches to ensure a semi-final berth. (AFP)



LES ARCS, France: Picture dated July 19996 taken by Agence France Presse photographer Pascal Pavani. This picture was awarded the Tour de France 96 Best Picture prize by the tour organizers. From left are Spanish Abraham Olano, Swiss Tony Rominger, Dane Bjarne Riis and Russian Evgeni Berzin climbing the last hill of the 7th stage between Chambery and Les Arcs.

(AFP PHOTO)

Notice

Dear Readers,

In order to have good coverage of Atlanta Olympics, the Tehran Times will bring out two sports pages regularly as long as the games are being held. *Editor*

Karelin Ready to Give Flying Lessons

ATLANTA — Alexander Karelin, the world's most frightening wrestler, is set to wreak his own brand of havoc from Monday in the Olympic Greco-Roman competition.

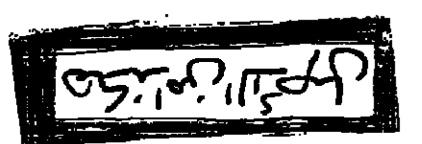
An awesome Siberian superheavyweight who has never lost an international match, Karelin is ready to use his feared "reverse lift" on his way to a hat-trick of Olympic gold medals.

The lift, which involves tossing his opponents Skywards before slamming them head or neck first onto the mat, is a humiliating end suffered by many in the 130kg category.

Swedish star Tomas Johansson preferred to be pinned down rather than face the lift in the 1991 World Championship final.

Yet the 28-year-old, who tipped the scales at a bouncing 15 pounds at birth, does not deny he will suffer when the 130kg competition opens on Monday.

"Enduring pain is part of wrestling," said Karelin, who sports his rivals in Atlanta will be ex-Soviet teammates, Ukrainian Piotr Kotok and Sergei Mureiko of Moldova, along with Johansson. (AFP)



Afghan President Appoints New Ministers

KABUL — Afghanistan's president has appointed a new deputy prime minister and two acting ministers to serve in Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's expanding government, officials said Sunday.

The new appointments by President Burhanuddin Rabbani on Hekmatyar's advice came two weeks after the first eight of 26 ministers in the fragile new five-party interim coalition were announced.

Rabbani on Saturday confirmed Hekmatyar's choice of Qutbuddin Helal — one of Hekmatyar's top political officers — as deputy premier in the 25-day old administration, the ministerial officials said.

Helal acted as deputy prime minister during Hekmatyar's first term in the job in 1993 and 1994, which ended in a Hekmatyar helping to launch an abortive coup attempt against Rabbani, sources said.

Rabbani also announced that two vacant ministerial posts — agriculture and city planning — would be temporarily filled by new acting ministers until Hekmatyar's final Cabinet is announced, the officials said.

Abdul Salam Hashimi, the head of the military committee of Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami Faction, will take over the helm at city planning while the Hezb's Sikander Qiam will become acting minister of agriculture, they said.

"The idea behind these latest appointments is to attempt to redress the imbalance between the number of acting ministerial posts held by Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami and those held by the Hezb," a source said. *(AFP)*

Zeroual Wants FIS Out of Political Picture

ALGIERS — President Liamine Zeroual wrapped up a series of talks with party leaders on Algeria's political future at the weekend amid a background of renewed violence.

Zeroual met delegates from 12 political parties and agreed to set up three mixed-party commissions to prepare for a national political conference, a referendum on constitutional changes and legislative elections to be held early next year.

But the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was excluded from the talks and Zeroual made it clear he wanted the movement out of the political picture.

The parties are split on the participation of the FIS in the national conference to be held before the end of the summer.

Armed Islamic activists, including the FIS and the armed Islamic group (GIA), have been fighting the military-backed authorities since the cancelation in January 1992 of the second round of legislative elections which the FIS was poised to win.

Between 50,000 and 70,000 people are estimated to have died in the conflict.

The country has been hit by a new series of bombings and assassinations since May.

Five people were killed and 30 injured Saturday when a bomb exploded in a cafe in Kolea, west of the capital.

The blast came two days after press reports said as many as 19 people were killed in two attacks Wednesday in the town Blida, south of Algiers.

Zeroual's stance on the FIS is backed by several political parties, including the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) of Said Sadi and the Republican National Alliance (ANR) of Redha Malek.

But others, including the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), which has refused to take part in the commissions, believe the Islamic group must be allowed to join the national conference if there is to be any chance of peace. *(AFP)*

UN Inspectors Keep Mum on Mission

BAGHDAD — UN inspectors on Sunday pursued a mission to probe secrets of Iraq's banned weapons programs but kept mum on whether Baghdad was allowing them to visit all sites.

"The team hasn't left Iraq," according to a UN official who declined to give details on the activities of the 34-member team led by Nikita Smidovich of Russia.

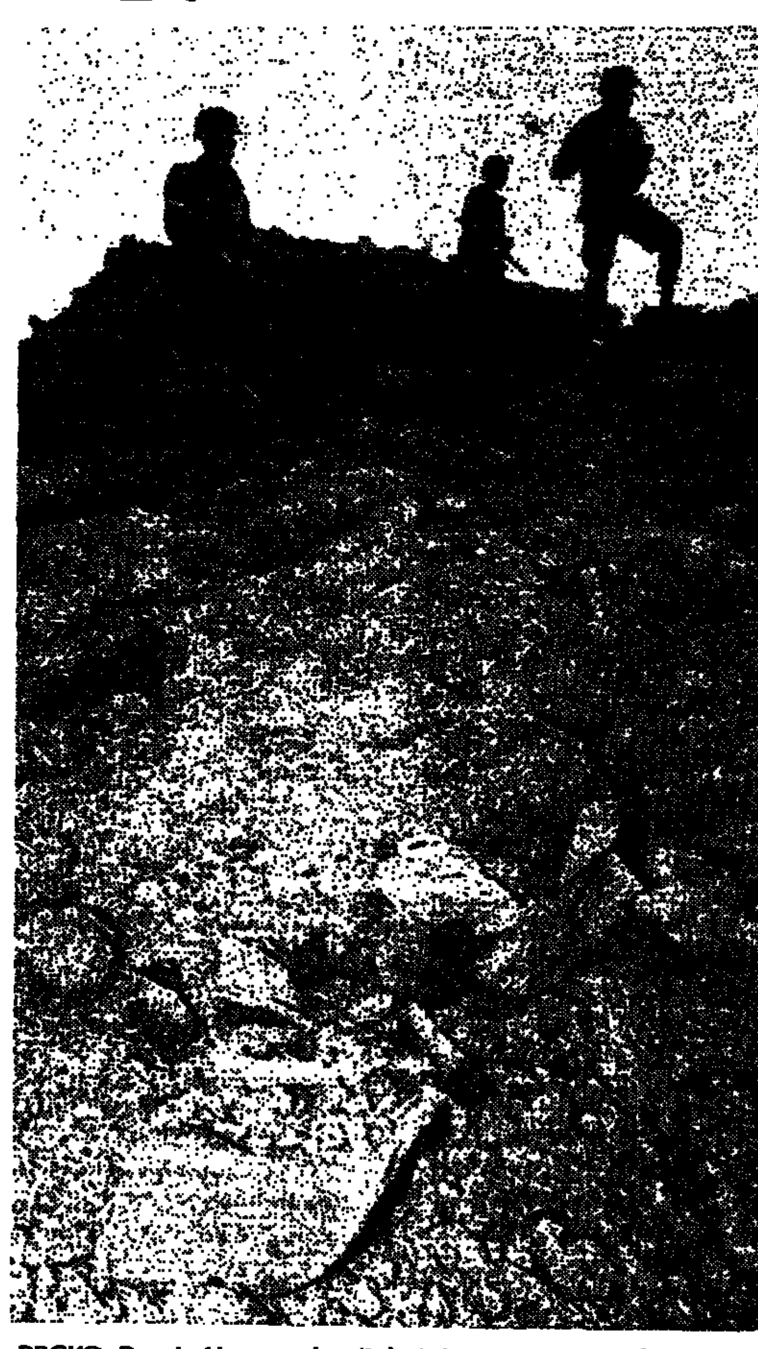
The experts with the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq resumed their inspections on Saturday following a short suspension after Iraqi authorities again prevented them entering suspected sites.

UNSCOM chairman Rolf Ekeus on Friday called off the snap searches by the team as Iraqi roadblocks on Thursday had "made a mockery" of a June 22 agreement in which the Iraqi government promised free access to the inspectors.

Ekeus told the UN Security Council in New York that the 60-hour delays preventing the team from reaching a site near Baghdad airport since Tuesday were "an outright violation" of the agreement reached after standoffs in June with the same inspection team.

Under UN resolutions, UNSCOM must certify that Iraq has destroyed its chemical, biological and nuclear weaponry, and missiles with a range of over 150 kilometers (90 miles) before international sanctions can be lifted. *(AFP)*

U.S. Fighter Drops a Bomb in Bosnia



BRCKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (July 20): U.S. IFOR soliders guard the impact site and the remains of a 250 kg aircraft bomb in the U.S. camp McGovern in the zone of separation some 5 km south of Brcko. A U.S. Navy F-18 fighter accidentally dropped the bomb on a routine training mission which detonated on the perimeter of the base, destroying an unmanned bunker and a metal container. No casualties were reported.

(AFP PHOTO)

BRCKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A U.S. Navy F-18 fighter dropped a 500-pound (225-kilogram) bomb by accident on Saturday, narrowly missing a base occupied by NATO peacekeepers, NATO officers said.

"At 4:35 p.m. (1435 GMT) this afternoon an IFOR aircraft conducting routine training inadvertently dropped a 500-pound bomb," Captain Christopher Redmond, a spokesman for the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force, said in Sarajevo.

The bomb exploded in an open area near to an IFOR base, Fort Mcgowan, five kilometers (three miles) from the strategic Serb-held town of Brcko, he added. There were no reports of either military or civilian casualties.

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Cucolo, speaking at Fort Mcgowan, said the bomb fell on the perimeter of the base, just 300 to 400 meters (yards) from living quarters, hitting sandbags and an unmanned bunker.

Some 600 military personnel live at the base.

The bomb has a kill radius of 400 meters, military officers said.

Half of its weight consisted of explosives, but its laser guidance system was not activated.

Luckiest were two soldiers who escaped unhurt from the observation tower they were manning, just 100 meters from the point of impact. *(AFP)*

(Contd from Pg. 1)

NETANYAHU...

"I didn't bring (Arafat) here from Tunis, it was the previous government. But he is here now and I know it's not in our power to return him to Tunis. So unfortunately, I must swallow that," Elissar told the paper.

Arafat returned for the first time to the West Bank and Gaza from PLO headquarters in Tunis in 1994 under the Oslo accords signed with Netanyahu's Labor predecessor Shimon Peres.

Elissar said Netanyahu's right-wing Likud Party "does not recognize the Oslo accords nor do we want to recognize them because we don't want to give them legal power."

Netanyahu has refused to commit to face-to-face talks with Arafat, saying he would meet him only if it was "in the interests of Israel". Arafat is to meet Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy on Tuesday.

Elissar, a former ambassador to Cairo and head of the Parliamentary Foriegn Affairs Committee, has moved to Washington and will take the post of Ambassador Itamar Rabinovitch in September, according to Israel's Foreign Ministry. *(AFP)*

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ZIMBABWEAN...

Mudenge is to submit a message from Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Zimbabwean official during his three-day stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran will meet a number of Iranian officials. *(IRNA)*

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ASSAD...

Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday," Mussa said.

"There will also be a study of the current situation and the latest developments in the peace process as well as the possible developments in the future," Mussa said.

Netanyahu called in Cairo for an "immediate" resumption of talks with Syria, suspended since February, urging Damascus to "change its behavior".

But Syria said Saturday it would not resume talks with Israel until it received a pledge that the Zionist state would return the whole of the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967. *(AFP)*

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAN...

the Kashmir issue.

Iran and Pakistan, as two Muslim countries, should spare no effort to put an end to the fratricide in Afghanistan, Nateq Nouri added.

He also emphasized that regional countries should be aware of the U.S. conspiracy, saying: the United States and arrogant powers try to tarnish the image of Islam and that they try to expand their presence in the region through spreading tensions among regional countries.

He concluded by saying that Iran firmly condemns the violation of Muslims' rights particularly in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kashmir and called for restoration of their rights.

The speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, heading a high ranking parliamentary delegation arrived here on Wednesday for a five-day official visit. He left Tehran for Islamabad yesterday.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ARAB...

He will then head Saturday for Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad "to coordinate positions between the various parties in the peace process".

Abdel Meguid said talks would also touch on "the holding of a meeting in the coming weeks between the five countries involved in the peace process," Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians. *(AFP)*

(Contd from Pg. 1)

Remains

17 trucks and were on their way to Kfar Tebnit where the Lebanese Army mans a checkpoint.

From there they will be taken over by Hezbollah officials, sources said.

In Beirut, the head of Hezbollah, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, read the names of 45 prisoners from Khiyam to be released by Israel and pledged that Hezbollah "will continue to work day and night until all the other prisoners are released."

The spokesman on Hezbollah television described the operation as "a very important event."

Hezbollah still seeks the release from Israeli jails of two Muslim leaders, Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani who were abducted from their homes in 1989 and 1994 by Israeli commandos. *(AFP)*

(Contd from Pg. 1)

AMNESTY...

der their control, he said.

In a statement, the mission said it planned to seek access to the areas controlled by Taleban who hold half of Afghanistan.

He said the delegation received "extremely disturbing reports of extensive executions" in the Taleban areas.

But, the statement underlined that the mission was not in a position to draw "firm conclusions against the backdrop of changing political alignments in Afghanistan." *(AFP)*

(Contd from Pg. 1)

RUSSIAN...

though casualty figures vary wildly according to sources. However, there is no doubt about the intensity of the Russian airborne and artillery offensive on this upland stronghold of the breakaway Caucasus republic.

A spokesman for the separatist Chechen leadership, Movladi Udugov, told AFP by telephone that at least one Russian helicopter and plane had been destroyed by Saturday afternoon, together with a dozen armored vehicles, though this has not been confirmed by the Russians.

Russia reported six of its soldiers dead, and put the number of Chechen fatalities at 60, while Udugov said Chechen dead only numbered five and that some 150 Russians had been killed. It was impossible to independently verify either side's figures.

Bad weather on Saturday slowed up the Russian offensive. However, by the afternoon Russian units had penetrated the Chechen's first line of defense.

Throughout the night, Russian aircraft kept up their attacks on the area, providing support for tanks. Bombardments began anew early Sunday morning, said Udugov.

"Today the fighting is taking place principally around Borzoi," a village about eight miles to the south of Shatoi, said Oudougov.

Russian military spokesman Igor Melnikov was quoted as saying that between 250 and 300 Chechen fighters are dug in at Shatoi.

But Udugov denied Russian reports that the region was home to a reinforced separatist base. "These are just volunteers who are defending their village," he said.

Russian forces had been preparing for the offensive since the middle of the week, and large numbers of reinforcements and supplies were assembled round the village. Around 100 armored vehicles were positioned some 12 miles north of Shatoi. *(AFP)*

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 35°C, Min. temp. 23°C

Clear to partly cloudy with wind and dust

Warmest Points:
Omidieh, Dehloran 49°C

Coldest Point:
Shahr-e kord 10°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Jedda	37	Vienna	19
Riyadh	43	Moscow	19
Istanbul	26	Madrid	33
Rome	28	Abu Dhabi	41
Athens	—	Karachi	—
London	27	New Delhi	—
Paris	28	Kuwait	44
Frankfurt	23		

Massive Narcotics Convoy Busted in Eastern Iran

KERMAN — A drug gang trying to smuggle tons of narcotics into Iran on camel back, through Mirjaveh, southeastern Iran, has been smashed in an armed confrontation with Law Enforcement Forces over the past few days, a senior police official said here on Sunday.

According to commander of Mersad Headquarters of Law Enforcement Forces Brigadier General Ali Akbar Puriani, a number of the 30-member gang were killed in the skirmish while some others were arrested and handed over to judicial officials.

Some six tons of drugs were hauled from the caravan of 60 camels, added the same source.

In related news from Jiroft, hundreds of kilograms of narcotics were destroyed in this southeastern city on Sunday.

According to the head of the local Islamic Revolution Court, Dad Khoda Salari, the destroyed narcotics was part of drugs confiscated from 11 drug gangs in Jiroft and Kahnuj over the past eight months.

Of the drugs hauled during the period, some 1,600 kg was handed to the Ministry of Health for Pharmaceutical use and the rest was burnt, Salari added.

Nine traffickers have been killed and 32 others arrested in armed confrontations with police, and dozens of weapons as well as 13 vehicles and motorcycles were confiscated, the judicial official noted. *(IRNA)*

Chinese President Supports Inter-Korean Peace Talks

SEOUL — Chinese President Jiang Zemin has expressed his support for peace talks between South and North Korea to map out a permanent peace, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Jiang did not propose a timetable but called for a gradual buildup of conciliation between the two Koreas to end their decades-long hostility, said the *Joongang Ilbo*, a South Korean daily.

Jiang's remarks came at talks last week in Beijing with *Joongang* President Hong Suk-Hyon, according to the newspaper's Monday edition released late Sunday.

"China supports the establishment of an enduring peace regime on the Korean Peninsula to replace the current truce agreement, which corresponds with the interests of South and North Koreans," Jiang was quoted as saying.

The proposal for inter-Korean peace talks, with Washington and Beijing playing a support role, was launched in April by U.S. President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young-sam.

But North Korea has yet to respond, prompting Seoul and Washington to offer a joint briefing for Pyongyang on details of their proposal.

North Korea is on the verge of accepting the briefing as part of its efforts to woo U.S. economic assistance and additional food donations, Seoul newspapers said Sunday.

South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung also voiced optimism, saying North Korea cannot put off its reply any longer.

"Everything is going well," Gong said on Saturday, briefing reporters on his trip to Jakarta for the ASEAN regional forum.

On the sidelines of the Jakarta meeting, Gong is scheduled to talk with Chinese, Japanese and Russian foreign ministers about Korean affairs, including the four-party peace conference.

On July 24, Gong will also hold a tripartite meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Japanese Foreign Miniser Yukihiko Ikeda, the Foreign Ministry said. *(AFP)*





BOGOTA, Colombia (July 20): Colombian Gen. Harold Bedoya(L), commander of the army, Defense Minister Carlos Esguerra(2nd L), President Ernesto Samper(2nd R) and Holden Delgado(R), commander general of the armed forces, open the military parade in honor of Colombian Independence Day in Bogota.

(AFP PHOTO)

Export of Over 159,000 Tons of Stones

TEHRAN — Export of over 159,000 tons of stones, including over 98,000 tons of processed stone, earned the country nearly $40 million last year (March 21, 1995-March 19, 1996).

Acting Deputy Minister of Mines and Metals for Mineral and Materials Processing Affairs Ali Almasi told IRNA here Sunday that the share of processed stones in the total amount of revenue was nearly $26 million.

Almasi said that major customers for the Iranian processed and unprocessed stones were among Southeast Asian countries, especially Japan and Indonesia, and the Persian Gulf littoral states.

He predicted that export of over 326,000 tons of processed and unprocessed stones by the year end (March 20, 1997) would earn the country nearly $75 million.

He added that 214,000 tons out of the exported consignment is expected to be processed stones, fetching over $56 million.

The Iranian official continued that last year, 5,134,445 tons of dimensional stones as well as 1,683,543 tons of stones of other types had been extracted.

He put the annual output of dimensional stones at 6,674,766 tons, which is expected to stand at 8,018,356 tons by the year end at a total investment of Rls.577.391 billion.

Almasi noted that the domestic consumption of stone stands at 4,970,000 tons annually. *(IRNA)*

111 Iraqi Kurdish Refugees Return Home

SANANDAJ, Kurdestan Province (IRNA) — Some 111 Iraqi Kurdish refugees, settled in refugee camps set up in this western province, left for Iraq voluntarily on Wednesday, said a local official in charge of foreign nationals.

Abbass Haj Ali added that the group of Iraqis were handed over to the representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees at the border area of Bashmaq, in Marivan.

Turkish Planes Violate Cypriot Airspace

NICOSIA — Turkish aircraft violated Cypriot airspace in a deliberate act of "provocation," Cupriot President Glafcos clerides said Sunday.

"The Greek-Cypriot side has informed the United Nations and the permanent members of the Security Council of Saturday's violation of Cypriot airspace by Turkish planes," Clerides told state radio.

Speaking at ceremonies in Nicosia to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Turkish invasion of the northern part of the eastern Mediterranean island, Clerides said the act was a "provocation at a time when efforts are being undertaken to control tension" in Cyprus.

Turkish forces invaded on July 20, 1974, in response to a coup in Nicosia inspired by the junta ruling Greece at the time, and the island has remained divided ever since.

Turkish-Cypriot leaders set up a breakaway republic in the north in 1983 which is only recognized by Ankara and where 35,000 Turkish troops are based.

New Islamist Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan made his first foreign trip to the Turkish Cypriot side of the island on Saturday to take part in celebrations to mark the invasion on Saturday.

Both Nicosia and Athens condemned the visit as a "provocation"

Two Turkish planes violated Cypriot airspace on several occasions between June 19 and 21 during Turkish military exercises, leading to furious Cypriot protests to the Security Council. *(AFP)*

Two Ultra-Orthodox Ministers Threaten to Resign

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Two ultra-Orthodox ministers on Sunday threatened to resign from the fledgling government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the distribution of Cabinet portfolios.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, from the religious Shas Party, said they would hand in their letters of resignation on Sunday afternoon, state radio reported.

The two Shas ministers are upset at Netanyahu's refusal to give the party the religious affairs portfolio and the deputy post in Likud hardliner Ariel Sharon's new Infrastructure Super-Ministry.

Shas, which won 10 seats in the 120-seat Parliament in May 29 polls, is a key part of Netanyahu's 66-seat majority in the Knesset.

Netanyahu has so far held onto the Religious Affairs Ministry himself as Shas and the National Religious Party, which has nine Knesset seats, battle it out for control of the portfolio.

If the two shas ministers carried out their threat to resign, the decision would not come into force until 48 hours later under Israeli law, giving Netanyahu a breathing space to forge a solution to the crisis. *(AFP)*

At Least Six Missing in Marseille Blast

MARSEILLE, France — At least six and possibly seven people were missing following a weekend explosion that destroyed a residential block in central Marseille injuring 26, rescue officials said Sunday.

Authorities had earlier said four were missing after the blast early Saturday but revised the figure after interviewing residents of the seven-storey building.

On Saturday a team of 120 firefighters freed residents from the building by ladder because the stairs were impassable, but search efforts were hampered by the risk that the badly damaged building could collapse.

Workers used a crane to remove entire sections of the facade, walls and girders to make the site safer for about 50 rescue workers sifting through the rubble.

The blast near the main railway station was thought to have been caused by a gas leak. *(AFP)*

(Contd from Pg. 2)

GERMAN...

mercenaries of Lahad's forces, held by Hezbollah were to be freed in exchange for 20 combatants of the Islamic resistance forces, imprisoned by the Zionist regime in Khyam Prison.

The exchange was to be carried out yesterday in Lebanon.

The German official said that Syria's role in bringing about the deal was also remarkable.

Schmidbauer said that Germany during the past three months in an impartial manner tried its best to bring the two warring sides to the negotiating table.

The German official described Iran-Germany relations as excellent and said that officials of the two countries are in constant touch with one other. *(IRNA)*

(Contd from Pg. 2)

TOYGAN...

security arrangement with his Iranian counterpart Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Boroujerdi left Ankara for Istanbul and arrived in Tehran later Saturday.

He delivered a message from President Rafsanjani to President Suleyman Demirel and held talks with Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

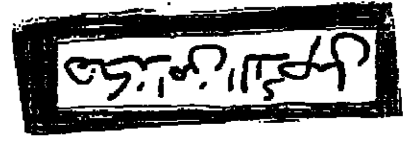
(Contd from Pg. 4)

WOMEN...

of the problem and manage to avoid it by seeking further education once they arrive, most do not. The informal sector offers little security and restricted opportunities. The answer for many poor country girls is prostitution, which exploits them and puts them at risk of violence of AIDS.

Education and employment are not panaceas for women. They also need a place to work, fair wages for their work and some hope for the future. Many would appreciate an alternative to migration, a way of life which would allow them to stay near friends and family. All would appreciate a greater degree of control over their lives.

(Courtesy United Nations Population Fund)



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University of Toronto Plans Chair on Suicide

TORONTO -- A Canadian woman's sorrow at the 1992 suicide of her son has led to the creation of North America's first chair for suicide studies at the University of Toronto.

Doris Sommer-Rotenberg of Toronto launched a campaign to fund the chair after her 36-year-old son Arthur killed himself.

"After Arthur's death, I immediately felt I wished to honor him because he was such a brilliant young man," Sommer-Rotenbeb said.

She said she approached the University of Toronto which promised to help endow a chair if she raised $730,000. (Reuter)

Diamond Windfall for Canadian Woman

VANCOUVER, British Columbia -- A Canadian woman who bought what she thought was a cheap costume ring ended up with a diamond treasure worth $11,000 Canadian (U.S.$8,200).

Tanya Tokevich, 21, recently paid $20 Canadian (U.S.$15) to a man selling jewellery in a Vancouver bar, her mother said. But the tarnished band turned out to be a valuable 2.05-carat antique diamond engagement ring.

Tokevich had the ring appraised. When she found out its true value, she turned it over to police. If no one claims the ring after 90 days, she will be allowed to keep it. (Reuter)

13 in Hospital Following Basque Militant Airport Bombing

TARRAGONA, Spain -- Thirteen of the 33 people injured at the weekend by a Basque extremists' bomb at a busy airport near here remain in hospital, including five with serious injuries, police said Sunday.

They revised upward an earlier provisional serious injury toll of four -- a Spanish woman and three British nationals including a six-year-old girl -- but could not immediately reveal the nationality of the fifth seriously injured person.

The 33 injured in the blast claimed by the Basque separatist group ETA included 25 Britons and eight Spaniards.

A provisional list of the wounded released by the authorities Saturday said three British nationals were in the Santa Tecla Hospital in Tarragona, 11 others at San Joan de Reus Hospital eight kilometers (five miles) from Tarragona city where the airport is located, and at least six in the Joan Hospital here.

Tarragona is 85 kilometers (50 miles) down the coast from Barcelona.

Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja was to visit the injured later Sunday at two hospitals in Tarragona and one in Reus, police said.

The attack Saturday evening occurred as hundreds of mainly British tourists were in the airport's waiting area.

A half hour later, two other bombs exploded at the beach resorts of Cambrils and Salou south of Tarragona. No one was hurt in the blasts at a hotel and on the promenade respectively. (AFP)



REUS, Spain (Espana): Head of the government of the autonomous region of Catalunya Jordi Pujol (L) and member of the Tarragona administration J. Maldonado pass by pool of blood as they visit site of a bomb blast at Tarragona's airport July 20. 33 people were injured in the bomb attack at Reus airport, outside this Spanish city on the Mediterranean Sea. The bomb attack was one of three claimed by the Basque separatist group ETA July 20.

(AFP PHOTO)

Pope Planning Trip to Sarajevo

PIEVE DI CADORE, Italy -- Pope John Paul II may make his first trip to Sarajevo after the Bosnian elections scheduled on September 14, his spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls said here.

Navarro, who is on holiday in northern Italy, refused to give any details about the projected visit, saying everything remained to be organized, but indicated that it could be in the near future.

He said that Bait-ul-Moqaddas was one of the places the pope still wanted to visit, where he could meet the Orthodox patriarch of Moscow, Alexis II. (AFP)

Tamil Tigers Claim 1,000 Soldiers Killed

COLOMBO -- Tamil Tiger guerrillas Sunday said they had slaughtered 1,000 Sri Lankan soldiers after overrunning an army camp, dealing a humiliating blow to the military, as fighting raged into a fourth day.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement that 1,000 troops have perished in the battle of Mullaitivu since a massive rebel offensive on Thursday.

It said LTTE guerrillas and civilians were "removing hundreds of bodies of soldiers from the camp" and moving them to Kilinochchi in the island's north to be handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"Large numbers of bodies are still to be recovered from debris of building (in the fallen military complex). Severely decomposed bodies are being cremated in the camp area," the statement, issued from London, said.

The Sri Lankan government did not comment on the LTTE body count, but a military spokesman said there was no communication with the Mullaitivu Garrison, and that reinforcements had failed to link up with the camp. (AFP)

Anger Sparked by Japan's Food Poisoning Outbreak

TOKYO -- The number of people struck by Japan's worst post-war food poisoning outbreak rose further Sunday, leading local residents to complain of government inaction.

Another 205 people were struck by the potentially fatal colon bacillus called O-157, bringing the number of cases this month to 6,288 in suburban Sakai near the western city of Osaka, a city official said.

A World Health Organization report said the outbreak in Japan was unprecedented and extraordinary in terms of the large number of people affected.

Before this year's outbreak, an average of only 100 Japanese have been struck by O-157 annually since it was discovered in 1982.

Nearly all of the victims were elementary school children aged between six and 12, with a smattering of teachers, infants and junior high school students and elderly people, he said.

The outbreak has been blamed on contaminated school lunches.

More than 600 elementary school children had been hospitalized, although 206 have been discharged.

Among those still in hospital, 19 are in critical condition, up from 13 on Saturday.

Two schoolgirls aged seven and 12 who were reported unconscious and in danger of dying on Saturday were "not showing recovering signs," the Sakai official said. (AFP)

Four Policemen Killed in Helicopter Crash

ISTANBUL -- A police helicopter hit an overhead powerline and exploded in mid-air, killing all four policemen on board, police said Sunday.

The accident happened in the Antalya region of southern Turkey overnight Saturday as the helicopter was flying over the site of a road accident near the ruins of the ancient town of Phaselis. (AFP)

Hutu Rebel Group Denies Responsibility for Refugee Camp Massacre

NAIROBI -- Hutu rebels accused by the Burundian army of killing more than 300 Tutsi civilians in the central Burundian town of Bugendana on Sunday denied any responsibility for the massacre.

"Those were Hutu civilians who were killed, and it was the (minority Tutsi-dominated) army who killed them," charged Jerome Ndiho, spokesman for the National Council for the Defense of Democracy (NCDD), the main Hutu rebel movement.

Ndiho said the NCDD's military wing, the Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD), had attacked a military post in Bugendana, where there were also "armed men" who he said were Tutsi militiamen. (AFP)

5,000 Arrested in India for Oil Price Hike Protest

GUWAHATI, India -- Police arrested more than 5,000 activists Sunday in the far eastern Indian state of Assam for a work stoppage launched to protest a recent hike in petroleum prices.

Officials in the state capital Guwahati said the demonstrators, mainly college students, had tried to disrupt work at refineries across the oil-rich state as part of the one-day protest.

The United Front government on July 2 hiked petroleum prices by 25 percent and those of diesel and cooking gas by 30 percent in a bid to generate 3.4 billion dollars and stem petroleum subsidies.

Witnesses said the activists were arrested en masse and detained in makeshift jails.

However, Dilip Kumar Saikia, president of the students' forum, told AFP that his organization would announce a 172-hour "oil blockade" soon. He did not specify a date.

Refineries run by two state-run companies in Assam produce five million tons of oil every year. (AFP)

Pakistan Paralyzed as Opposition, Transport Protest

KARACHI -- Strikes called by the opposition parties and transport operators to protest against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's policies crippled life across Pakistan on Sunday, witnesses said.

An opposition-sponsored shutdown hit most cities in Sindh, the southern home province of Bhutto, who left earlier on an official visit to South Korea.

Nine parties called the stoppage as part of a campaign to force Bhutto to resign and hold snap elections under a caretaker administration, a demand rejected by the prime minister as an insult to the people's mandate.

Bhutto, who has said elections will take place as scheduled in 1998, is accused by the opposition of corruption, incompetence and economic mismanagement.

Throughout Sunday, which is a normal working day in Pakistan, banks, markets and shops were closed in the provincial capital Karachi, the country's industrial and commercial center.

Most parts of the city looked deserted with little traffic on the roads, with paramilitary rangers and police guarding key buildings.

Karachi police said a policeman was shot and injured by snipers while groups of unidentified men burnt tyres and hurled stones at vehicles in some areas of the city. Police said they had made about a dozen arrests. (AFP)



NEW YORK, NY, United States (July 20): Ron Dwyer (L) pauses to compose himself outside the Ramada Inn at Kennedy Airport in New York as he speaks to the media about his 11-year-old daughter, Larkyn Lyn Dwyer, who was on the TWA flight 800 that exploded July 17. Dwyer is from the Phoenix, Arizona, area.

(AFP PHOTO)

German Deficit Swells but Consumer Spending Set to Take Off

FRANKFURT — Germany recorded a deficit of 38 billion marks ($26 billion) in the first six months of this year, more than three times the 12 billion recorded in the same period of 1995, the Bundesbank said Friday.

While expenditure had risen 15 percent over January-June 1995, receipts had only gone up by 4.5 percent, the German Central Bank said in its monthly report.

The federal, state and municipal public sector debt for the first five months of the year totalled 37.7 billion marks, compared with 12.6 billion for January-May last year, the bank added.

"In May the public sector again called heavily on the credit market" to the tune of 9.5 billion marks, the Bundesbank said.

Over the first five months federal borrowings totalled 31.5 billion marks, against 3.8 billion in 1995, for the states they were 16.1 billion, against 10.6 billion and for the smaller local authorities 2.8 billion marks against 2.5 billion.

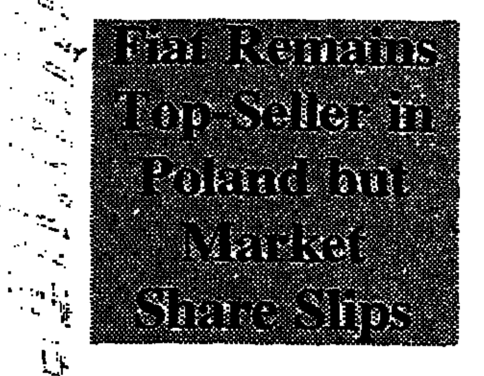
Exceptional revenues brought total debt down to below 38 billion marks, the report said.

But the Bundesbank also pointed to encouraging signs of a take-off in consumer spending in the second half of the year. Manufacturing sector orders had risen in April and May and the retail trade was optimistic, it said.

Consumer spending accounts for 57 percent of gross domestic product.

The bank said household spending had been helped by raising tax thresholds and cuts in electricity prices, making an extra 15 billion marks, or 0.5 percent, available in total.

Lower income families, who would spend rather than save, would benefit most from the tax changes. But the bank warned that the revival would be slow and not general, given continuing uncertainties about the labor market. (AFP)



Fiat Remains Top-Seller in Poland but Market Share Slips

WARSAW - The Polish subsidiary of Fiat continues to dominate the national car market but faces stiff competition from General Motors and Renault which both doubled sales in the first half of this year, according to an analysis published Saturday.

The report, compiled by the specialist in automobile sales statistics Samar, shows that private car sales in Poland soared to more than 200,000 for the first six months of this year, up 29.5 percent on the same period in 1995.

Fiat recorded sales of 84,180 compared to 78,106 for the first semester of 1995, but saw its total share of the Polish car market slip from more than 50 percent in 1995 to 42 percent. The market share of the Polish-South Korean constructor Fso-Daewoo fell by 9 percent, with sales tumbling from 41,659 last year to 31,954 for the first six months of 1996.

General Motors doubled sales to 14,558 vehicles, principally the Opel models Astra and Corsa, against 6,569 in 1995. Renault recorded similarly impressive gains, sales rising from 6,569 to 14,418.

The best-selling car in Poland remains the small Fiat 126 (33,400 sold), followed by the medium-sized Fso-Daewoo Polonez (31,900), then the three Fiat models Cinquecento (24,700), Punto (12,100) and Uno (10,400).

The Renault Megane comes in at 16th, with nearly 8,500 models sold since the start of the year.(AFP)



Arab Inflation Higher but Deficit Cut

ABU DHABI — Inflation rates in most Arab states increased in 1995 but many of them managed to cut the deficit in their budgets because of higher oil prices, an official report showed last week.

Although the inflation rate declined in Algeria, Sudan and Yemen, it remained at 22.5 percent, 118 percent and 145 percent in the three countries in 1995, according to the Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG).

"With the exception of those countries, Arab states managed to maintain their inflation rates within reasonable levels," it said.

Inflation in Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil supplier, surged to five percent from 0.8 percent, the Kuwaiti-based Arab League affiliate said.

It did not give reasons for the surge but economists in the Persian Gulf kingdom attributed it to a government decision to hike water and electricity rates and the prices of domestic flights as part of reforms intended to restore balance to the economy and lessen reliance on oil exports.

The report showed inflation rose to four percent from 3.4 percent in Jordan, to nine percent from 8.2 percent in Egypt, to 5.5 percent from 4.5 percent in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and to 8.5 percent from 6.5 percent in Oman.

Lebanon, Syria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia also had higher rates.

But most members of the Arab League succeeded in trimming their budget deficits in 1995 as a result of reforms and an improvement in crude prices.

Saudi Arabia recorded the largest decline in its budget shortfall, which was slashed to 3.3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 1995 from 8.3 percent in 1994, the study said. Kuwait and several other members also reduced the deficit while it widened in the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Morocco.

"In the balance of payments, most Arab countries recorded an improvement while some members recorded a surplus in 1995," the report said. "The economy of 10 Arab countries also recorded real growth rates of between three and 6.6 percent while other members moved from negative to positive rates." (AFP)

Flights Canceled After Air Algerie Walkout

PARIS - Air traffic between France and Algeria was again disrupted Saturday as Air Algerie pilots continued a weekend strike for higher wages begun early last month.

In Lyon, eight out of 13 scheduled flights were canceled, airport authorities said.

In Marseille, two Air Algerie flights to Constantine and Algiers were canceled Saturday but two flights to Algiers and Oran were to be maintained.

The Algerian carrier was planning to replace its strike-bound aircraft with wide-body planes chartered from Egypt Air and Tunis Air.

Air Algerie stopped flying to Paris in June last year after Paris airport authorities ordered the company to move to Charles de Gaulle Airport from Orly in the south of the French capital. (AFP)



Korea's Economy Up Against Wall of High Costs

SEOUL — Chased out by high costs and suffocating bureaucracy, a rising number of South Korean firms are relocating overseas, triggering concern of an industry hollow-out amid an economic slowdown, analysts said.

"High-cost, low-efficiency" is the new buzzword in South Korea, as its key foreign exchange earners — semiconductor and automobile firms — follow in the steps of textile and garment manufacturers in investing abroad.

It is against this backdrop that the government has announced incentives aimed at encouraging domestic investment and easing the burden of high costs to bolster the sagging international competitiveness of South Korean exports.

The issue of high production costs has taken on urgency as South Korea registered a current account deficit of an alarming $8.1 billion in the first five months till May, a whopping 60 percent year-on-year rise.

"On the threshold of achieving a per-capita GNP (gross national product) of $10,000, we have bumped into a wall of high costs and low efficiency," ruling party lawmaker Lee Myung-Bak told the Parliament on Thursday.

"If we overcome this, we could join the ranks of advanced countries. If not, we will fall back into mediocrity," said Lee, who once led a subsidiary of the now-huge Hyundai group to become a construction giant.

Analysts blame what are known here as the "five highs" — expensive transportation, high interest rates, rents and wages, and a maze of regulations — for the economic slowdown and snowballing trade deficit.

Transportation is so ridiculously high that from Seoul to the southern port of Pusan, a 450-kilometer (280-mile) drive, it is more expensive than shipment from Pusan across the Pacific Ocean to Los Angeles.

Land prices too are prohibitively high: A new plant site costs twice as much in Japan, known for its high real estate prices, businessmen said.

Interest rates, now hovering over 12 percent, are double international rates.

Statistics show that between 1990 and 1994, wages in the manufacturing sectors rose an average of 15.8 percent, compared with Taiwan's 9.6 percent and Japan's 2.4 percent and 3.4 percent for the United States.

That rise was largely a catch-up from previous low wages, but this year alone the hikes agreed upon between workers and management averaged 15.6 percent, up from last year's 10.4 percent.

The high production costs in turn force exporters to mark up, making their products more expensive in overseas markets and losing their price edge against competitors.

Alarmed by the flagging competitiveness of Korean exports, the government on Tuesday unveiled incentives for private firms to take part in a 25-billion-dollar package of infrastructure projects over the next five years.

The five projects included plans to enlarge the ports of Pusan, Kwangyang on the southern coast and Asan on the southwestern coast, the construction of a new international airport on the west coast and the high-speed train linking Seoul and Pusan.

Private firms will be allowed to borrow money from abroad and be given tax reductions for their participation in the projects.

Banking rules will also be revised so that firms can take loans for about 30 years instead of the current 10 years.

The government has eased or abolished some 3,400 regulations over the past three years.

But old habits die hard. Businessmen said that regardless of what the government claims, they do not feel the effect.

"South Korea's economy has worrisome structural problems, which cannot afford to be neglected any longer," said chief economist Cho Dal-Ho of the economic institute of the business group, Samsung. *(AFP)*

Indian Industry and Stock Markets Expect Pro-Growth Budget

BOMBAY — Industrial and stock market leaders in India's business capital are anticipating a pro-growth and pro-reform federal budget Monday from the country's new center-left coalition government.

Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram, an advocate of liberalization begun five years ago by the previous Congress (I) Party administration, is to unveil the fiscal 1996-97 budget in Parliament in New Delhi on Monday.

The budget for the fiscal year which began on April 1 is expected to reveal the economic agenda of the 13-party United Front Coalition government of Prime Minister H.D. Dewe Gowda, who took office on June 1.

Chidambaram was commerce minister in the previous government and is an ardent supporter of the reforms which saved India from bankruptcy in 1991 and resulted in economic growth of seven percent in fiscal 1995-96.

Analyst Devesh Kumar of the foreign stockbroker W.I. Carr said the finance minister's biggest challenge would be accommodating the conflicting demands of the coalition members, who range from free traders to communists.

"The finance minister will have to walk a tightrope between pro-market reforms and populist rhetoric," he said.

Chidambaram will attempt to "continue the economic reforms without putting the government at stake, especially since the various parties in the government have opposing stands on crucial economic issues," he said.

Kumar said he expected the government to slash import tariffs by between 10 percent and 40 percent.

"But the various populist subsidies will not be cut and the fiscal deficit will remain around six percent of gross domestic product against the targeted five percent," he said.

In its pre-budget economic survey on Friday, the Finance Ministry warned that the robust economic growth could be undermined if the fiscal deficit was not brought under control, infrastructure improved and the reforms accelerated.

Industrialist Shekhar Bajaj said transparent policies should be put in place to attract greater foreign investment into developing and modernizing India's creaking infrastructure.

"The budget should also try and reduce wasteful government expenditure, bring down corporate and individual taxes and vigorously pursue the economic reforms," he said.

Nityakrishna Goyal, chief of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations, said the budget should be pro-exports.

"Tax holidays and rebates for exporters should continue or else our exports will be uncompetitive," he said. "Exporters are staying afloat only because of these, otherwise rising domestic costs make our exports uncompetitive."

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said it expected the budget to continue in the general direction of the free-market economic reforms.

"We expect New Delhi to set aside more funds for the social sectors and industrial infrastructure," it said, "as well as promoting domestic savings and opening up of the state-controlled insurance sector."

Revenue-increasing measures could include "simplification and widening of the tax net," the CII said.

Keshub Mahindra, chairman of the utility vehicle maker Mahindra and Mahindra, said he expected the budget to step up the pace of reforms.

"There is now a political consensus on reforms, growth and disinvestment of state-owned companies," he said.

"With the government striving for 12 percent yearly industrial growth, industry looks forward not only to a more rapid development of infrastructure but also an easing of liquidity and lower interest rates," he added.

Mahindra said it might be politically difficult for the government to scrap subsidies, "but a move ought to be made to gradually bring about reductions." (AFP)

Japan's Mitsubishi Wins Saudi Power Project

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia said on Saturday it had awarded Japanese firm Mitsubishi heavy industries a 4.15 billion Saudi riyal ($1.1 billion) contract involving the setting up of a power plant.

A consortium of five local and international banks will provide a loan of $500 million to finance part of the project in the eastern region, the Saudi Consolidated Electric Company in eastern province (SCECO-east) said.

Mitsubishi was selected from several international bidders and its selection was "based on objective and professional analysis," it said in a statement.

It said the Ghazlan steam power plant included the installation of four steam turbine generators of 600 megawatt capacity per unit for a total plant capacity of 2,400 megawatts. (AFP).

World Bank Arm Invests in First Private Project in Vietnam

HANOI — The International Finance Corp., a World Bank investment arm, is to loan nearly $14 million to its first wholly private sector project in Vietnam, a report said Sunday.

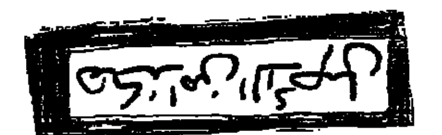
IFC, set up to support private sector initiatives in developing countries, will loan $13.3 million to Vietnamese private firm Huy Hoang and Indonesian company Kia to build a ceramics factory, the Vietnam investment review said.

Kia is part of Indonesian group Ongko group that is involved in banking, financial services and manufacturing.

The bank has loaned $156 million of its own money in Vietnam and supported loans of $181.4 million from other banks. Most of its projects so far have been with state sector companies in joint ventures with foreign firms as the Vietnamese private sector is underdeveloped.

Harold Rosen, IFC manager for Southeast Asia, told the official newspaper that only one or two other private sector projects were in the pipeline for the bank for the next few years although it hoped management training initiatives would help smaller non-state firms.

So far the IFC has invested in several hotels, a dairy project and a fertilizer plant. *(AFP)*



TV Programs

Monday Evening, July 22

National Network, Channel 1:

13:11 Focus on Family
14:00 News
14:30 Focus on Family
15:00 Identity
15:30 Interlude
15:45 Kids Corner
16:30 News
17:00 Children Program
18:00 Documentary
18:30 From Sea to Sea
18:50 The Move
19:00 News
19:15 Martyr
19:40 Religious Program
19:50 World of Photography
20:20 Review of Day's Major News Stories
20:40 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:51 Music
21:00 News
21:20 Commercials
21:30 Music
21:40 Summertime Program
22:15 Commercials
22:30 Foreign TV Series
23:45 Economic Roundtable

National Network, Channel 2:

13:20 Religious Program
13:30 Commentary on the Holy Qoran
14:00 Iranian Series
15:00 Football Training
15:30 Wonderful World Animals' World
16:00 Literature in University
16:30 Physics in University
17:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements for life)
18:00 Children's Program
19:30 Sport for Disabled
20:00 Summertime Program
20:30 Cultural & Scientific News
20:40 Call to Prayer (Azan)
21:00 Feature Movie
22:00 Variations
22:30 News
22:45 The Notes of Night
23:15 Cultural TV Magazine
24:00 Outside the Borders

National Network, Channel 3:

16:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
16:15 Freshness
17:00 Religious Program
17:30 Sports Program
19:00 For Tomorrow
19:20 The 2nd Season
19:45 Sports News
20:00 Feature Movie
20:40 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:50 Cont. Feature Movie
21:15 Sports Roundup
23:45 News (in English)

National Network, Tehran Channel:

17:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
17:15 Olympic Games
17:45 Quiz Show
18:15 Medical Points
18:30 Tehran News
18:40 In the City
19:00 Tehran's Economy
19:15 Another Kind
19:30 Tehran's Districts
19:40 Wild Animals World
20:00 Commercials
20:10 Justice
20:40 Call to Prayer (Azan)
21:00 In the City
21:15 The 5th Look
21:30 Cinema
22:00 News
22:15 Report on Tehran
22:30 Wild Life
22:45 Another Kind
23:00 Olympic Games
23:45 Sound & Sights

Tuesday Morning, July 23

National Network, Channel 1:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
06:15 Good Morning Iran
09:10 Kids Corner
10:20 Foreign TV Series
11:15 Children's Program
12:10 Focus on Family
13:10 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 2:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
06:15 Cultural TV Magazine
07:00 A New Dat
07:30 Variety
08:00 Training Football
08:30 Wonderful World of Animals
09:00 The Universe
09:20 Our Wonderful Body
09:50 Interlude
10:10 Kids Corner
11:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements for life)
12:00 Summertime Program
12:30 Seminars Review
13:10 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 3:

07:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
07:45 Sports Program
08:00 Freshness
08:45 The Tops
09:00 Reflection
10:10 Speak to Me
10:30 The Youth (in Gilan)
11:00 Interlude
11:15 Innovators

Prince Andrew to Quit Navy in Three Years

LONDON – Prince Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth II, is to leave the Royal Navy in three years' time, the Ministry of Defense has said.

The 36-year-old prince, who began his naval career in 1979, will leave the navy after taking up a new appointment in January 1997 at the Ministry of Defense headquarters in London, which will last for two-and-a-half years.

The Duke of York, who at the age of 22 fought in the 1982 Falklands war with Argentina, currently serves as a senior pilot of 815 Naval Air Squadron, based in Portland, southwest England.

He is set to leave his current position on October 25.

At the end of May, Andrew and his wife Fergie were formally divorced, ending a turbulent 10-year marriage.

The couple were separated four years ago.

Buckingham Palace said the duke had a number of options for his future but was considering them privately.

"What he will do once he leaves the navy is not a matter I can comment on. He has a number of possible options that are being considered but at the moment it is too early to offer guidance on these," a palace spokesman said.

The Royal Navy said the prince "has decided to leave, we have been told, to concentrate on his other commitments outside the navy.

"He has had a long and distinguished career and I think he wants to go off to pastures new."

As a sub-lieutenant in the Falklands war, Andrew flew his helicopter as a decoy for Argentinian missiles.

The Royal Navy spokesman stressed that the move was entirely Andrew's: "There was no hint of him being pushed out. A naval career is very demanding because you keep going away."

In making his decision, the duke, who is a lieutenant commander, "has resigned effectively" and will not be promoted to commander, the spokesman said.

Lieutenant commanders normally retire at around 50 and commanders at 53-54, he added. Andrew will be 39 when he leaves the navy (AFP).

U.S. Sailor Arrested in Japan

TOKYO – A U.S. sailor accused of knifing a Japanese woman was handed over to Japanese police Saturday, under new bilateral arrangements between Japanese and U.S. authorities, a police spokesman said.

The suspect, Terrence Swanson, 20, a crew member of the McClusky, a frigate based in the Japanese port of Yokosuka, was arrested by a local police in Nagasaki, southwestern Japan, shortly after he was taken into custody by the police, the Nagasaki prefectural police spokesman said.

The handover of the suspect was agreed between Japanese and U.S. authorities Friday.

The U.S. Navy said in a statement Saturday that Swanson, Boatswain's mate seaman, who is the prime and sole suspect in a knife assault and robbery of a 20-year-old Japanese woman in early morning hours of Tuesday, would be handed over to Japanese police authorities in Sasebo.

The agreement, for the suspect to be handed over before being formally charged, was reached at a late Friday meeting of a joint committee on the status of forces accord for U.S. troops stationed in Japan.

The alleged assailant was detained by naval security forces in Sasebo on Tuesday and has been interrogated by Japanese police as the prime suspect in the case.

The woman, identified as Kaori Tanigawa, was seriously injured after being slashed across the throat while walking in a park in Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture, in the early hours of Tuesday.

She reportedly told police her bag had been snatched and that the attacker had looked like a foreigner.

The McClusky, based in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, was making a call at the port of Sasebo at the time of the assault.

Following the outcry over the rape of a 12-year-old girl by three American servicemen in Okinawa last year, the United States has agreed to hand over military suspects in local criminal cases before they are formally charged.

Even though Japanese police had warrants to arrest the three men in the Okinawa case, the suspects were not released until indicted under the status of forces accord, triggering an unprecedented wave of protests on the southern Japanese island (AFP).

FBI Seeks Info Through Internet

NEW YORK – FBI investigators called on Internet users to help them gather clues to the cause of the crash of TWA Flight 800.

"We are in the information business," said Jim Kallstrom, who is heading the FBI's investigative team.

"More and more we are in an age of information, of electronic surveillance, of digital telephony," he added, giving out the FBI's World Wide Web site (http://www.fbi.gov).

He called on Internet users worldwide to provide the FBI with any information they may have relevant to the crash.

"People around the world might have information about this event," he said.

He also used a press conference with reporters to make a plug for full funding of a 1994 law allowing FBI wiretaps in the age of high technology (AFP).

Youth Set Sail Into Kuwait's Pearl Diving Past

KUWAIT CITY – Six traditional dhows are to set sail on Sunday for a pearl-diving expedition, which the organizers said will give Kuwaitis a taste of the hardship and discipline faced by their grandfathers.

"It teaches you discipline. The younger generation has lost it. They need to learn discipline and respect," said Captain Khaled al-Dilali, as he organized a group of youths waterproofing the Indian teak dhows with a traditional mix of sheep's oil and lime.

The preparations for Kuwait's annual pearl-diving expedition, which will include some 60 youths between the age of 10 and 20, are a far cry from 36-year-old Dilali's normal work as a manager at Kuwait Airways Corporation.

"This is pure tradition. This is what was done in the old days. We are doing the same, we are teaching our young people what our grandfathers did," said Dilali, who learned his skills from his own grandfather and uncle, both accomplished sea captains.

Kuwait's youth today are more accustomed to air-conditioned homes, mobile telephones and all the other luxuries that have followed in the wake of Kuwait's massive oil wealth exploited since the 1940s.

But for one week, these youths will leave their luxuries behind and learn the skills of sailing and pearl diving, and sleep under the stars in the stifling summer humidity.

"Kuwait as a state must keep hold of its traditions," said Captain Khaleef al-Rashid, now in his 60s who first joined the crew of a dhow at the age of nine.

He began as an assistant to the divers and the other workers on the ship, and his remuneration was to hunt through the broken oyster shells that had already been searched and see if any pearls had been missed.

He described the breathless work of the professional divers. "They would dive to 40 meters without oxygen. The minute they hit the bottom of the sea they started looking for oysters," he explained.

"The best diver would stay underwater at that depth for nearly two and half minutes," he said. "They were only lungs, nothing else."

The diver used a lead weight on a rope to drag him to the sea floor, this weight would be pulled to the surface by the diver's supporter on the surface.

The diver carried a second rope with him, to which was attached a bag where he placed the oysters. Once he had collected enough oysters or ran out of breath, he tugged the rope, signaling to his supporter, who dragged him to the surface with his catch.

What every diver hoped to find was a dana, a flawless and perfectly round pearl that can grow up to the size of a child's marble. Today, such a specimen can fetch as much as 3,000 dinars ($10,000).

"It was not a competition. If a diver found one, they knew it was from God," said Rashid, who started to dive himself at the age of 12 and was captaining his own craft by the age of 20.

But by that time, the late 1940s, oil exports were starting to transform the simple desert state, and pearl divers were leaving their traditional work for more lucrative jobs provided by the government.

Kuwait now exports two million barrels of oil a day and commands some 10 percent of the world's known crude reserves.

No one wants a return to the harsh existence of the past, but enthusiasm is growing for the annual expedition that offers the chance to experience some of the adventure and challenges of the pearl divers.

The event began in 1986 with a total of 30 captains and youths, while some 80 people are joining the latest trip in the six dhows donated in 1993 by the emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad fsal-Sabah.

"Now life in Kuwait is good," said Khaled al-Rashed, son of Khaleef and now a captain himself. "But we must remember our past (AFP).

Teachers Urged to Bring White Kids to Hearings

PIETERSBURG, South Africa – An official of South Africans Truth and Reconciliation Commission has urged teachers to bring white pupils to the body's hearings in order to educate them about apartheid-era abuses, the SAPA news agency said.

Commission official Piet Meiring told a hearing here that Afrikaans- and English-speaking whites, including young students, should attend the Truth body hearings in order to learn that both blacks and whites had suffered abuses during the apartheid era, SAPA said.

Meiring's colleague, Tom Manthata agreed, saying: "We would have loved to have seen people from the white community (attend)."

The provincial commission, which is probing abuses and killings committed by apartheid supporters and their enemies between 1960 and 1993, has heard hundreds of tales of murder, abuse and torture since it began in April.

So far, most cases have involved black victims, although some whites have also appeared, citing abuses committed by supporters of the former white-led government, or anti-apartheid activists.

In addition, a small number of perpetrators have openly admitted committing human rights crimes to the commission.

On Friday, a 36-year-old former activist told hearings in this city north of Pretoria how his genitals had been repeatedly beaten by policemen and defense force members during an incident in the 1980s.

As a result, he is now unable to father a child, SAPA reported.

Wynand Malan, who chaired Friday's hearings, called on police to come forward to testify to the commission's amnesty committee, which is allowed, in some cases, to forgive past abuses and waive criminal charges.

Commission member hope to "get information through to the police ranks, because the commission operates within the total ambit of the past conflict," Malan said (AFP).

Pass the Dog Biscuits, Darling — I'm Pregnant

Women can develop the strangest appetites when they are pregnant, and that goes for celebrity mums-to-be too

For Baywatch's Pamela Anderson it was lollipops, while Jane Seymour wanted tomato sauce with everything while expecting her twins. Madonna has reportedly gone mad on chocolate cake, while Melanie Grifith prefers junk food.

In both her pregnancies, Princess Diana had a yearning for hamburgers.

It is a well known fact that women develop the strangest appetites when they are pregnant. Some even develop a liking for eating toothpaste or dog biscuits, while others get an irresistible urge to nibble lumps of coal or chew silver paper.

Stuffed Biscuits: According to London obstetrician Anthony Bruckman, one of his pregnant patients liked to slice biscuits down the middle and fill them with a thin slice of strong carbolic soap.

Another longed for pickled onions coated with strawberry jam.

"I've known women craving for prawns and-ice cream together; and potatoes covered with mud," says Brockman. "Another sucked starch and camphor balls. "Hormone imbalance causes mild mental confusion that can lead to irrational cravings and behavior, usually early in the pregnancy.

No-one can determine exactly how a woman will react to the change in her body during pregnancy.

But if a pregnant women's erratic behavior, confusion and conduct become serious, she can get hormone treatment from her doctor, though this is seldom necessary.

Women usually have the same craving in each pregnancy. In fact, some women can tell they are pregnant again simply by the onset of a fancy for certain foods," he says.

There are often psychological as well as medical problems involved. The desire for a good chew, which seems to be common, can be a throwback to childhood, when mum offered something sweet and crunchy as a comfort in times of stress.

Sometimes the odd cravings can be a call for attention from the man in her life, or relatives and friends.

Whatever the reason, doctors advise fathers-to-be to be as tolerant as possible and to indulge their partner's culinary cravings.

However, things can become more difficult when a mother-to-be's behavior rather than her eating habits becomes irrational and expensive.

Nesting Instinct: Many women want to move home or start major home improvements as part of their 'nesting' instinct. Others throw away clothes or jewellery — a gesture, say psychiatrists, to prove that the coming baby is more important to them than anything else.

One wife insisted on having her bed moved to the ground floor of her home, so that, as she said, "I can be nearer the grass because I fell safer there." Another craved fresh salmon for every meal — including breakfast. Her husband had to resort to poaching them and eventually ended up in court.

But the judge was sympathetic and issued only a small fine because, as he put it, "I fully understand the problems of a husband whose pregnant wife suddenly develops such powerful cravings."

(Asia Features)

Hairy Chests Mean More Brains

LONDON (AFP) — Hairy-chested men are brainier than their smoother rivals, a U.S. scientist claimed as he laid bare 22 years of research at a conference of European psychiatrists.

Aikarakudy Alias, who practices in Illinois, said his studies showed 10 percent of American males were very hairy, but that the percentage rose to 45 percent for those studying medicine or engineering.

Hairy chests were often associated with masculinity because people who went bare-chested were often farmers and building workers rather than academics.

Alias, whose shirt remained firmly buttoned during his speech, pointed to Charles Darwin, chess player Gary Kasparov and actors Robin Williams and Peter Sellers to back up his theory.

Albert Einstein, however, must remain a hirsute enigma.

Bad Breath Good-Bye

PART 2

Dentists now have ways to root out back-of-the-tongue-dwelling bugs. Marvin Cohen, a St. Louis dentist who recently opened a halitosis clinic, teaches patients to brush their tongues. "The villi are like a plush carpet," he explains. "You have to get down between them to the very bottom." A tongue is clean, adds Cohen, if it's a rosy pink color. "A white film on top means there are still millions of bacteria living there."

Richter utilizes another method. First he jet sprays his patient's tongue with a solution containing a small amount of chlorine dioxide, a tasteless yellowish solution (the same cheical added to swimming pools and city water to kill bacteria). Then he uses a plastic, T-shaped scraper — like a tiny squeegee — to abrade the bacteria left behind. The patient is given a tongue scraper to use at home, plus a supply of the chlorine-dioxide preparation.

The Scent of Disease. halitosis may signal illness, because the dry mouth that triggers bad breath is also a symptom of many disease. Sinus infections can produce bad breath in two ways. First, when the nose is stuffed and a person breathes through the mouth, bacteria thrive. Second, some sinus infections are caused by bacteria, which produce their own sulfur gases. When a sinus condition reaches this stage, it may be time to see a doctor for antibiotics.

Hiatal hernias can create a unique kind of bad breath. When the stomach protrudes through the diaphragm into the chest, acidic juices may regurgitate into the esophagus. Digestive smells can then be exhaled through the mouth.

Some medications are also culpable. Antihistamines, decongestants, antidepressants, tranquilizers, diuretics and antihypertensives all decrease saliva flow and allow bacteria to multiply.

Finally, some women find their breath worsens before their menstrual periods. This may be due to a hormonal change that results in an increase of bacteria in the mouth, says Richter. Stepped-up oral hygiene is the answer.

"How's My Breath?" Because bad breath is such a social handicap, it is fraught with emotional and psychological baggage. People with halitosis develop an oversized idea of how bad it really is, says Richter. "At least half my patients have an exaggerated view of the way they smell." In some cases, this becomes the real problem. The phenomenon has been called. "imaginary halitosis," and is considered a kind of depressive anxiety disorder.

It's hard to tell how foul you own breath is because the olfactory sense is so adaptive. Once the nose has taken in an odor for a few minutes, it stops smelling it.

A way around the problem is to sniff your used dental floss. If it smells bad, the same smell might be in your breath. But the only way to be sure, outside a health professional's office, is to borrow someone else's nose. Ask your spouse to gauge your breath — if he or she hasn't already.

If it's confirmed that your breath is offensive, you may need the help of your doctor or dentist to sweeten the air again. But take heart: the good news is that with a little effort, you *can* kiss bad breath good-bye.

(Courtesy Reader's Digest)

THOUGHT

THERE is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his.

(Helen Keller)

PRAYER

Noon 13:11
Evening 20:38
Dawn (tomorrow) 4:15
Sunrise (tomorrow) 6:06

TODAY IN HISTORY

1515 - Congress of Vienna between Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I, Poland's King Sigismund I and Hungary's King Ladislas II settle points of issue between Poland and Holy Roman Empire and succession to throne of Hungary.

1812 - British under Duke of Wellington defeat French under Marshal Marmont at Salamanca, Spain.

1901 - Negotiations start in London between Britain and Japan to form alliance.

1933 - U.S. aviator Wiley Post completes first Solo airplane flight around world.

1934 - FBI agents in Chicago, Illinois. shoot and kill U.S. gangster John Dillinger.

1943 - Allied forces capture Palermo, Sicily, in World War II.

1950 - King Leopold III returns to Belgium after six years of exile.

1961 - United Nations orders ceasefire after clashes between French and Tunisians in Tunisia.

1968 - Israeli airliner bound for Israel from Rome with 48 people aboard is hijacked and diverted to Algeria.

1971 - Last U.S. infantry units are pulled out of South Vietnam's northern border area.

1973 - Soviet space probe begins six-month journey toward planet Mars.

1977 - Egypt bombs and strafes major air base in Libya in second day of conflict between the two countries.

1988 - Car loaded with bombs blows up near Syrian military intelligence base in west Beirut, killing seven people and wounding 48.

1990 - Liberian President Samuel K. Doe becomes virtual prisoner in presidential mansion as rebels besiege Monrovia and Doe's 500-man security force refuses to let him leave without them.

1991 - Yugoslavia's federal presidency orders disarming and demobilization of all illegal militias in Croatia.

1992 - Medellin drug cartel leader Pablo Escobar and his lieutenants overpower guards and escape after a gunbattle leaving 2 dead.

1993 - Gold miners massacre 12 Yanomami Indians in Venezuelan jungle.

1994 - Citing an economic crisis, Rafael Caldera suspended constitutional rights in Venezuala, affirming the authoritarian and populist stamp of his 5-month old presidency.

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS

R1	E1	A1	A1	Y4	K5	B3	RACK 1
T1	S1	A1	U1	T1	G2	M3 Double Word Score	RACK 2
T1	T1	E1	O1	K5	D2	N1 Triple Word Score	RACK 3
U1	N1	E1	O1	S1	D2	R1	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). **JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW**

11-26-94

Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

P3	U1	T1	R1	E1	F4	Y4	RACK 1 =	65
S1	A1	I1	N1	T1	E1	D2	RACK 2 =	58
T1	I1	D2	B3	I1	T1	S1	RACK 3 =	80
L1	O1	U1	D2	E1	R1		RACK 4 =	14
PAR SCORE 140-150							JUDD'S TOTAL	217

11-19-94

HEALTH CAPSULES®
by Michael A. Petti, M.D.

IF SOMETHING INCREASES YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING A DISEASE BY 100%, IS THAT ALWAYS SIGNIFICANT?



NOT ALWAYS. FOR EXAMPLE IF ORDINARILY YOUR CHANCES ARE ONLY 1 IN 10,000, A 100% INCREASE MEANS ONLY 2 CHANCES IN 10,000.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

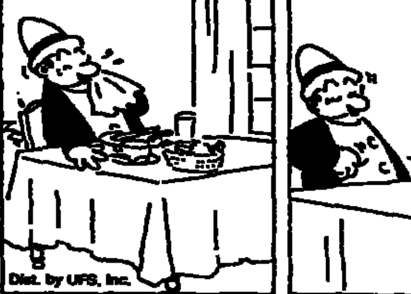
Believe It or Not! A BALL of LIMESTONE CONTAINING FOSSIL SHELLS FELL FROM THE SKY OVER Bleckenstad, Sweden! (April 11, 1925)

Milton and Mamie Guard HAVE DELIVERED The San Francisco Chronicle NEWSPAPER EVERY MORNING FOR THE PAST 38 YEARS — 65 MILLION NEWSPAPERS IN ALL! SUBMITTED BY CHUCK TSERLEN, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF

ONE MERINO SHEEP CAN PRODUCE UP TO 5500 MILES of WOOL IN A SINGLE YEAR! SUBMITTED BY RICHARD GIBSON, LAFAYETTE LA.

3-30

FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr







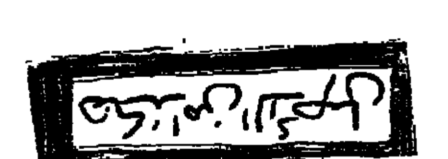

NANCY ® by Guy & Brad Gilchrist











هكذا من الاجل

IN THE NAME OF GOD

EXTENSION OF TENDER NOTICE NO. 74/31



THE ABOVE-MENTIONED TENDER IS HEREBY EXTENDED FOR ONE MONTH. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE ENVELOPES IS ON AUG. 12, 1996 (MORDAD 22, 1375) UNTIL THE END OF OFFICE HOURS AND THE RECEIVED PROPOSALS WILL BE OPENED AT 9 A.M. ON AUG. 13, 1996 (MORDAD 23, 1375) AT THE TRANSACTION COMMITTEE OF TCI LOCATING AT SECOND FLOOR, BLDG. NO. 5, TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IRAN (TCI), DR. SHARIATI AVE.

DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & MANPOWER
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IRAN

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IRAN
BLDG. NO. 5, BISIM, DR. SHARIATI AVE.
TEHRAN — IRAN

Chirac's Pragmatic Approach to Democracy



CHIRAC

PARIS — When Jacques Chirac declared himself the advocate of "democracy with African colors" in Brazzaville this week, the French president was underlining the strong streak of pragmatism which today characterizes French relations with the continent.

It also marks a significant break with the era of Francois Mitterrand, whose wish was to make French aid conditional on the introduction of multiparty democracy.

While asserting that coups and other violent political acts should be consigned to the past, Chirac developed an old theme of his: The "luxury" which multiparty systems represent in developing countries. According to his thesis, democracy cannot be "exported, imposed or decreed" following a pre-established Western model.

In the Congolese capital, Chirac criticized the political conditions attached to African aid by his predecessor at the 16th Franco-African Summit in June 1990.

Then, Mitterrand told African leaders assembled at the French coastal resort of La Baule that aid from Paris would be "lukewarm to regimes which behave in an authoritarian manner" and "enthusiastic towards those who take the steps towards democratization with courage". By contrast, Chirac outlined to Congolese parliamentarians his preference for "economic conditionality."

The implication is that in exchange for aid African governments will be expected to make efforts towards the healthy management of their economies. An early indication of the kind of conditions likely to be attached was given last week, when Paris wiped out 400 million francs ($80 million) owed by Gabon — almost 10 percent of the country's total external debt — in exchange for a commitment to several infrastructure and health projects.

The means of monitoring the effects of such aid were outlined last June by Minister for Cooperation Jacques Godfrain, who told French business chiefs that it was necessary to "improve the targeting and efficiency of French state aid", and "evaluate more systematically its impact on populations".

Before arriving in power last year, Chirac had accused his socialist predecessor of interference in the domestic affairs of African countries on human rights issues. He believed Mitterrand's policy led to "facade democracy, without enlisting heart and mind".

Last week in Congo, he guarded against setting himself up as "the giver of lessons", insisting instead on his notion of "a democracy with African colors".

This idea of an "African exception" in terms of multiparty democracy is not new for Chirac. In the past, his conviction earned him round criticism, particularly in 1990 at a time when the majority of African countries were beginning to put an end to the one-party rule which had been the rule since the end of colonialization.

In February of that year, while a Gaullist deputy and mayor of Paris, Chirac declared in Abidjan, the economic capital of Ivory Coast, that the multiparty system was "a sort of luxury for developing countries", and "a political error". He expressed his fear that the creation of parties in Africa might lead to a situation of "one party per tribe".

Nowadays he acknowledges that "Africa needs democracy, and the world needs a democratic Africa". But when he urged the Congolese people to build a "consensual democracy tailored to Africa", he did not insist that they follow a pattern designated by France. (AFP)

Will Brazil's Ex-President Collor Be Another Comeback Kid?

RIO DE JANEIRO — More than three years after he resigned amid corruption charges, Brazilian ex-President Fernando Collor pledged to stage a political comeback.

"I am now back on the (political) path," Collor said in a statement sent over the Internet.

Collor, who campaigned as an anti-corruption crusader, ultimately resigned in December 1992 as Congress was poised to impeach him on corruption charges including alleged knowledge of a kick-back network run by an ex-campaign aide.

The Senate stripped Collor of his right to participate in politics until 2000 as a result of the charges.



COLLOR

Collor however was never formally tried.

In his statement, the former leader criticized President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's management of the country's public debt, unemployment, and trade deficit. (AFP)

Brunei Ruler Seen Ushering in Democratic Reforms

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — Oil-rich Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah has set the pace for democratic reforms with the release of a top rebel leader and establishment of a national public forum, diplomats say.

"We see the developments as significant. The important thing to remember is that the ruler is pursuing reforms when there is certainly no real pressure for him to do so," a Western diplomat based in Brunei's capital Bandar Seri Begawan told AFP.

The fabulously wealthy Sultan Hassanal pardoned and ordered the release of Zaini Ahmad, 61, twice detained for leading an abortive revolt in 1962.

The release comes nearly two months after the Sultan, who turned 50 last Monday, launched the first national forum allowing leaders at the grassroots-level to participate in policymaking, officials said.

Brunei, sandwiched between the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak on Borneo Island, is Southeast Asia's last autocratic state.

Like his forefathers for some 600 years, Sultan Hassanal wields absolute power over his Islamic kingdom, a British protectorate until 1984 when it reluctantly accepted independence from London.

"The general view is that Brunei should open up and develop. Going by what the Sultan is doing now, obviously he does not reflect absolute monarchy or repressive monarchy. It's a benign monarchy," the diplomat said.

Brunei held its first free elections under British administration in 1962 when an anti-monarchist and anti-British Parti Rakyat Brunei (Brunei People's Party), whose leaders included Zaini, swept the polls.

When the party was not allowed to take power by the present Sultan's father, Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin, some 4,000 rebels staged a revolt, claiming their aim was to end British rule.

On a request by Sultan Omar, Britain flew in a detachment of crack Gurkha troops from Singapore and crushed the rebellion.

Zaini was among those arrested and spent 11 years in detention in Brunei before escaping to neighboring Malaysia. He was detained again recently when he returned to Brunei.

It is not known whether Zaini, who campaigned for democratic rule in Brunei during his exile in Kuala Lumpur, will have a role in government now that he has pledged allegiance to the Sultan.

"Zaini had expressed his sincere regret (for) his part in the rebellion ... he also swore his complete allegiance to the ruler and pledged to abide by the laws of the country," state-controlled radio television Brunei reported.

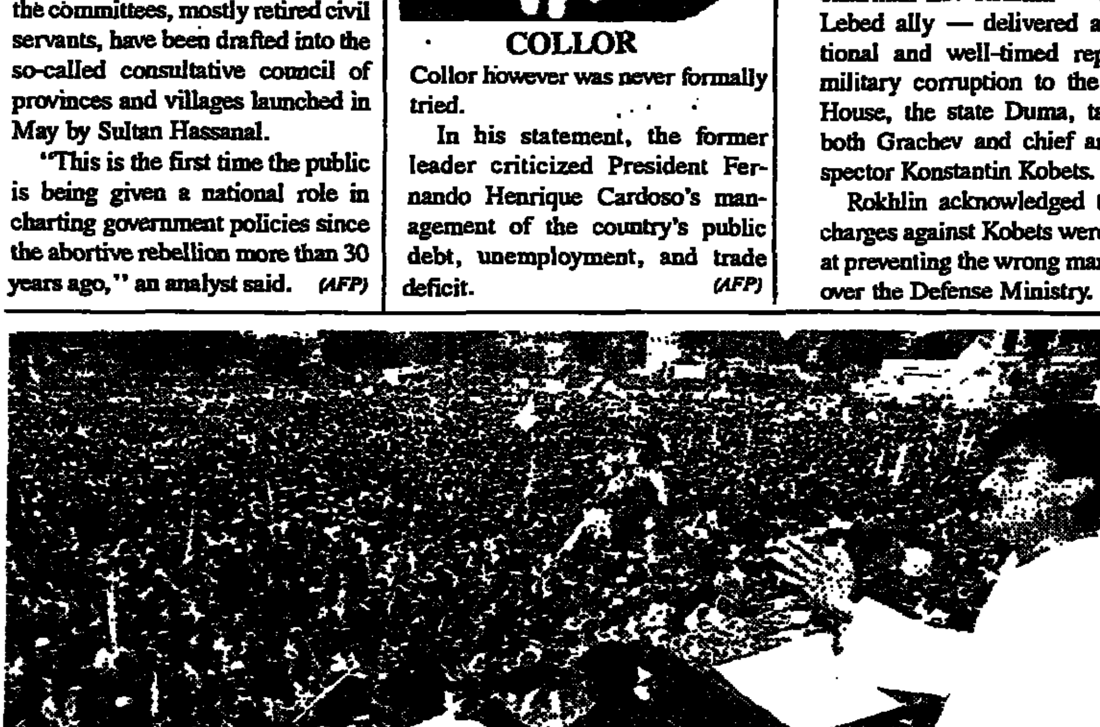
Since the 1962 rebellion, there has been virtually no dissent in Brunei, whose 300,000 mostly Muslim Malays have little to complain about as they pay no taxes and receive virtually free medical care and education, diplomats say.

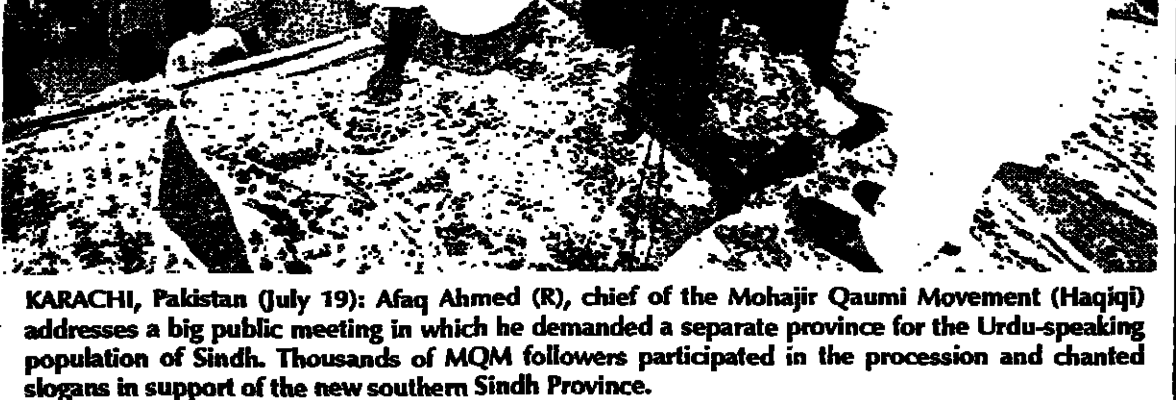
Because of their oil wealth, Bruneians enjoy a per capita income of about $21,100, one of the world's highest.

Although questioning the royal household's opulent lifestyle is taboo, the people are now allowed to criticize government policies through their villages and province-level committees, official sources said.

About 1,000 elected leaders of the committees, mostly retired civil servants, have been drafted into the so-called consultative council of provinces and villages launched in May by Sultan Hassanal.

"This is the first time the public is being given a national role in charting government policies since the abortive rebellion more than 30 years ago," an analyst said. (AFP)





KARACHI, Pakistan (July 19): Afaq Ahmed (R), chief of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (Haqiqi) addresses a big public meeting in which he demanded a separate province for the Urdu-speaking population of Sindh. Thousands of MQM followers participated in the procession and chanted slogans in support of the new southern Sindh Province.

(AFP PHOTO)

Corruption Scandals Rock Russian Military Establishment

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin has ordered a cleanup of the Russian military establishment, tainted with scandal amid reports that officers built themselves luxurious homes and salted away millions of dollars while conscripts were bullied and starved in crumbling barracks.

General Igor Rodionov, who was appointed Russia's new defense minister, has committed himself to reforming the armed forces with the strong backing of national security chief Alexander Lebed.

Rodionov is a protege of Lebed, a popular retired general who joined Yeltsin's inner circle after coming third in the first round of presidential elections, on a campaign platform which committed him to stamping out corruption in the military.

"It is impossible to maintain authority in the army if its leadership is corrupt," Rodionov told the military top brass.

At the same meeting Yeltsin said the Russian officer corps "is riddled, as if by rust, with corruption," and "they have not managed to stop a phenomenon as monstrous as the sale of arms from army depots."

During the presidential election campaign Yeltsin promised to end conscription and develop a professional army by 2000.

Allegations of high-level corruption in the Russian military have been piling up since Pavel Grachev, Lebed's arch enemy, was sacked as defense minister on June 18.

Seven top generals allied to Grachev were sacked later, after Lebed accused them of plotting to mobilize the army to put pressure on Yeltsin.

Before Rodionov's appointment, parliamentary defense committee chairman Lev Rokhlin — another Lebed ally — delivered a sensational and well-timed report on military corruption to the Lower House, the state Duma, targeting both Grachev and chief army inspector Konstantin Kobets.

Rokhlin acknowledged that the charges against Kobets were aimed at preventing the wrong man taking over the Defense Ministry.

He accused Kobets of misusing about $7 million of the army's money in a deal with a commercial firm, and said $23.1 million from sales of Russian weapons in Bulgaria had disappeared and been transferred to a German bank by General Vasily Vorobev, a close ally of Grachev.

Vorobev headed the Defense Ministry's Budget Department until he was ousted in late 1995.

Rokhlin brought further corruption charges against top military officials.

He said that in 1993 Vorobev ordered the withdrawal of 50 billion Polish zloty from a military branch of the Central Bank, and they were used in a currency speculation scam.

The money was first transferred from Moscow in the sum of $5 million, converted into zloty and then converted back into dollars on the Polish black market, yielding $9 million, which were then illegally transferred to Germany, Rokhlin alleged.

In another corruption case, Rokhlin said General Yuri Rodionov, chief auditor of the government's Audit Chamber, had suppressed the results of an official inquiry into the sale of surplus military property and scrapped precious metals.

Calling for Rodionov's dismissal, Rokhlin said the Defense Ministry's central directorate had failed to account for 12.1 tons of silver and 40.8 kilograms of platinum collected from military scrap metal, which disappeared in 1994.

Meanwhile, *Izvestia* published on its front page a photograph of a luxurious dacha complex built in a select Moscow suburb for General Vladimir Churanov, the armed forces logistics chief.

The paper reported that Churanov's home had eight rooms, a garage, swimming pool and sauna, and cost no less than $1 million.

"At the same time we know that soldiers are starving, some officers are not paid for months and everything is in short supply in the army," the paper commented.

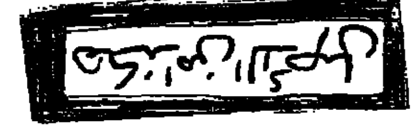
It added that three of Churanov's aides were now in Lefortovo Prison accused of stealing billions of rubles from the state.

In October 1994 a journalist with the popular *Moskovsky Komsomolets* daily, Dmitry Kholodov, was murdered as he was completing an inquiry into high-level army corruption.

The creation of a professional Russian Army has been mooted for years.

The need for fundamental reform was starkly highlighted by the bungling in Chechnya, where the army proved to be badly trained and poorly motivated in combat against a determined force of separatist guerrillas.

Since the end of the Cold War, the army, once the pride of the Soviet Union, has been reduced to an impoverished state, short of spare parts and modern equipment. (AFP)



Intensification —an Antidote to the Ills of Urban Development?

By Edmund Fowler

Higher densities, especially with mixed land uses, are being proposed as an important strategy for urban development, in particular for the building of ecologically sensible cities. This policy of intensification, it is argued, will cut down on car use (the major source of Urban air pollution) and make municipal services sewers, roads, police and fire protection cheaper per unit of housing or work space.

Some argue that intensification has social and cultural benefits as well. Drawing on the insights of writers such as Jane Jacobs, they point out that concentrated, mixed land use in a city encourages more affordable housing and politically competent, cohesive urban communities.

Intensification has been put forward as an antidote to the economic waste and ecological devastation of post-war patterns of urbanization, which depended on the technologies of large-scale construction and of the automobile. Without denying the desirability of intensification, we must be careful not to turn it into a one-dimensional technical fix.

In other words, we run the risk of making a familiar mistake: Having created a problem by the misuse or overuse of a technology, we attempt to solve it with a new technology — forgetting that all technologies are embedded in a social and political context. That context must be changed; or the new technology will be ignored or twisted until it fits in with the old way of thinking.



In conjunction with the UN Habitat II conference in Turkey, from June 3-14 1996, it is relevant to head the writer's caution against turning intensification —concentrated, mixed land use — into a one-dimensional technical fix for the economic and ecological ills of urban development.

Enslaved by the Liberators

A couple of examples come to mind. Ingenious technologies that empower individuals to be self-sufficient farmers, fishermen, urban freight carriers, or small-scale manufacturers have been around now for at least a couple of decades (if not millennia); adoption of these technologies could have not only turned around Third World economies ruined by Western 'economic development,' but also helped the working class in the North from slipping into poverty and dependence.

These technologies have not been adopted. Obviously, the political and economic power structure with whose rules we have been socialized to comply stands in the way of change.

Another example: Usual Franklin (*The Real World of Technology*, Toronto: CBC, 1990) points to the sewing machine and the computer. Originally hailed as liberators and work savers when they (literally) were plugged into the industrial work place, they became instruments of yet more tyrannical control over workers.

Franklin wisely comments that the dimension missing in these innovations was participation by the user in the design, deployment, and maintenance of the item and of the technology that item represents.

Devoid of Creative Meaning

Intensification has shown itself to be vulnerable to similar vexations. It is seen as a way that we can continue to live and work as we always have, but do it closer together, on small plots of land.

As with the sewing machine, it is a new technology intended to make our lives easier but presented to us in the packing of a land use policy by governments or of a technique by big developers.

Intensification is seldom characterized as part of a set of connected, incremental decisions by individuals and small groups to change their own patterns of living and working. There are such people, people who are choosing to be less a part of the formal economy, valuing authentic public and private relationships more highly than consumer ship, and redefining both their work and their work spaces. Intensification is highly compatible with some such changes (by no means all), but only if those who are changing participate in the intensification process.

For then it is included naturally in the new culture and not imposed in a vacuous form from above by institutions who represent business as usual. In this latter form, intensification will never be anything but a techno-fix, devoid of any creative meaning.

(Third World Network Features/Fourth World Review)

U.S. Approves Time Warner/Turner Merger

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission gave a green light to a merger of Time Warner and Turner Broadcasting System (TBS), which would create the world's biggest media-entertainment conglomerate.

The FTC said in a statement that it had "directed its staff to work out the details" of the merger.

The initial agreement for the estimated $6 billion deal between the companies was announced in September.

A detailed contract will be presented to the FTC within three weeks, the statement said. The statement said one commissioner, Mary Azcuenaga, dissented from the issuance of the statement, but further details of the FTC decision were not available.

The deal was expected to see TBS founder and boss Ted Turner, until now a fiercely independent entrepreneur who built the all-news Cable News Network, become vice chairman at Time Warner with responsibility for all previous TBS assets.

Time Warner already owns Warner Brothers Studios, Time magazine and other publications such as Sports Illustrated and People, the premium film channel HBO and a large number of cable television operations.

It will acquire TBS' Castle Rock Entertainment, New Line Cinema, the pre-1948 Warner Brothers film archives and cable channels CNN and the Cartoon Network.

Under the agreement, Time Warner, which already owns 19 percent of TBS, will buy the remainder of the company for stock.

Consumer groups sought to block the deal amid fears that reduced competition in the industry would result in higher cable television rates.

"The deal can go through and the public interest will be protected," said William Baer, director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition.

The deal has been further complicated because another major cable operator, Tele-Communications Inc., holds 21 percent of TBS stock, creating a potential conflict of interest.

Under the deal, TCI would own nine percent of Time Warner, a major competitor. TCI chairman John Malone reportedly would also accept that the nine percent stake in Time Warner is non-voting shares.

Once implemented, the merger will continue a trend toward consolidation in the U.S. media-entertainment industry, after Walt Disney's acquisition of capital Cities/ABC and Westinghouse's buyout of CBS.

The new company, with interests in television, cinema, music, press and publishing, will be even bigger than Walt Disney-capital Cities/ABC.

Time Warner/TBS had a combined turnover of some $20 billion last year, ahead of Walt Disney-Capital Cities/ABC's combined revenues.

In an agreement worked out with FTC staff, TCI will get five-year contracts to carry Turner and Time Warner programming at favorable rates, rather than the unprecedented 20-year contracts in the original deal.

Time Warner and TCI together control 40% of the cable industry.

Additionally, Time Warner and TBS must sign agreements not to use their market position to discriminate against competitors in the industry. (AFP)

Io Landscape Constantly Changing

WASHINGTON — The landscape of Io, a moon that orbits Jupiter, is constantly changing, new photos transmitted from the Galileo probe have revealed.

Scientists at the National Optical Astronomical Observatories in Tucson report that the atmosphere of Io has changed radically since pictures were transmitted in 1979 from the Voyager I and Voyager II probes.

"The changes we are seeing on Io are dramatic," said Dr. Michael Belton of the Tucson Observatory. "The colors of the material on the ground and their distribution have changed substantially since the Voyager flybys of 1979."

Belton described in particular the changes to the Masubi volcano, discovered by Voyager, in the Southern Hemisphere. (AFP)

New Yeti Sightings Claimed

ALMATY — An Abominable Snowman has been spotted near here in recent weeks according to 80-year-old zoologist Pavel Marikovsky, who has spent the past half a century on the tracks of the elusive Yeti.

He tape-recorded a conversation with some children who said they saw one of the mysterious creatures in a field near the mountains 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the Kazakh capital.

They described a "terrifying hairy being as tall as a fir tree, but it had very kind eyes". They particularly remembered an "unbearable stench like wild animals".

Apparently unnerved by the children's scrutiny, the Yeti made a bolt for it to the nearest peaks, they related. Their parents have barred any contact with the press.

A couple of years ago, local policeman Serik Mukhanov reported watching a group of Yetis crossing a road not far from here, Marikovsky told AFP.

In his 50 years of searching, he has come to view the Yeti — a Nepalese word, he says, other authorities say Tibetan — as "a hominid close to Neanderthal man which human beings have driven into the remotest parts of the globe".

A book he published on the "tragedy" of the snow creature's fate has disturbing, albeit blurred, photos taken by a scientist in the United States in 1967.

They show a sort of great ape in a forest moving about on the hind feet. The skull formation is elongated like an artillery shell. The features are simian, except for a prominent nose which looks human. Marikovsky points out that there is no chin, the presence of which would be a sign of an ability to speak.

He said there had been 2,000 encounters with the Snowmen this century, in the Himalayas and the neighboring Pamir Range, in Siberia, China and the United States. Yetis were killed in Manchuria in the Sino-Japanese war and one was captured only to die in captivity, he said. A Yeti was reportedly trapped in Abkhazia, Georgia, in 1910.

The illustrated mythology of the Yeti dates back to the fourth century BC in Central Asia, showing the great beast kidnapping women and stealing camels. There are drawings in the mountain grottos and gorges of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan which endow female as well as male Yetis with exaggerated sexual organs.

Illustrations in Mongolian and Tibetan encyclopedias, some going back to the 18th century, show the Snowmen dancing or walking in the forest. The Chinese were writing about the creatures 2,000 years ago, Marikovsky said.

He felt the search was an eminently humane undertaking which could save such an exceptional species from extinction. "This being, neither monkey nor man, will have completely disappeared in 10 or 15 years," the old zoologist said sadly. It had never been known to attack people, was above all a fruit-eater, "and is so fearful it only approaches children".

Leaning forward on his walking stick, Marikovsky averred that if he had the means to mount an expedition he would need only a few days to trace and photograph the Yeti of Almaty.

To the objection that no Yeti remains had ever been found, Marikovsky countered with a Mongolian proverb: "The best place for the deceased is the stomach of his descendants." (AFP)

WHO Reports Worst Ever Meningitis Epidemics in Africa

GENEVA — The World Health Organization (WHO) has recorded more cases of cerebrospinal meningitis for Africa in the first six months of 1996 than in any previous twelve-month period, the organization announced in Geneva recently.

Upwards 140,000 cases have been reported since start of the year, resulting in at least 15,000 deaths.

According to WHO, these are the highest numbers ever recorded for the disease in Africa for a single year.

Ninety five percent of the cases and deaths were concentrated in the so-called "meningitis belt" across sub-Saharan Africa, stretching from Ethiopia to Senegal. Nigeria alone reported 75,000 cases, 8,000 of them fatal.

Nigeria together with Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso and Mali form the five priority countries that regional epidemologists and WHO specialists will visit under a new initiative against the recurring cycle of the disease. (AFP)

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Nicosia Is Worl…
Divided Cap…

European Comm…
Pakistan to Eradic…

Nicosia Is World's Last Divided Capital

NICOSIA — Since the bloody summer of 1974, stray cats and snakes have been the sole companions of UN peacekeepers patrolling the "no-man's land" dividing the Greek and Turkish Cypriots, the closest of neighbors who are among the bitterest of enemies.

On Saturday both sides of the island marked the anniversary of the July 20, 1974 invasion of Turkish mainland troops which sparked a bloody but short conflict.

The "green line" separating the two communities snakes across the island and winds through the capital Nicosia, cutting streets arbitarily in half, dividing homes, gardens, schoolyards, workplaces. Tearing apart lives that were once closely intertwined.

The Turks invaded after a coup in Nicosia inspired by the military junta then in power in Athens. The "green line" was drawn up in August 1974 and physically traced in areas in white paint on the ground.

In one part of the old city, surrounded by 16th century Ventian walls, the white line even wiggles across the boot of an abandoned car, but neither side is adverse to trying to change the outlines.

The line "officially runs from the back of that car to this wall, but the Turks tried to draw their own line, pretending that the front of the car actually is its back," said a British UN lieutenant, who asked not to be named.

But he added, "They're just as bad as each other," pointing to a map of the island painted on the Greek side of the cease-fire line, which grew steadily larger to cross over the line.

In the end the UN fixed the Greek-Cypriot's game, by painting a large blue circle round the map.

In the zone surrounded by deserted houses with curtains still drawn, where the fig trees and lemon trees grow wild sprawling across crumbling walls, time has stood still.

In a garage basement, 25 minibuses are lined up with their seats still wrapped in the plastic covers put on 22 years ago to protect them from the dust. Their mileometers show that they made the 45 km (27 mile) journey from the port of Famgusta to Nicosia, before being entombed.

On the eve of the anniversary, came the first real diplomatic breakthrough in years when U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright persuaded the military commanders from both sides of the divide to hold their first-ever talks.

A U.S. initiative aimed at finally breaking down the barriers had "started with a small step," Albright told AFP on Thursday.*(AFP)*

Over 200 Dead in Attack on Refugee Camp

BUJUMBURA — Troubled Burundi faced further conflict as a rebel Hutu attack on a camp of displaced Tutsis killed 200 people overnight and the Burundian army forced 2,000 Rwandan refugees to return home.

Hundreds of assailants who probably came from the neighboring province of Karuzi carried out the attack at Bugendana in the central Gitega province, the cabinet chief of the Burundian prime minister said.

"We have already counted more than 200 bodies," Marc Nteturuye said, describing the massacre as a "national disaster" and an "unspeakable crime."

The camp was guarded by troops but they were not numerous enough to fend off the attack and some of them were also killed, he added.

On Saturday more than 40 refugees injured in the attack were brought to the Gitega hospital, and others were continuing to arrive. Most had bullet wounds, said hospital director Alphonse Ciza, lamenting a lack of aid from humanitarian organizations.

Nteturuye blamed rebels from the Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD) for the attack. The FDD is the military wing of former minister Leonard Nyangoma's National Council for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD).

By Saturday afternoon the CNDD had not responded to this accusation.

Nteturuye called on the international community to condemn the killings.

He also denied an accusation from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that the Burundian Army had forcibly repatriated 2,000 Rwandan refugees from the Kibezi camp in northern Burundi, near the Rwandan border.

United Nations Spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume said the army had used UNHCR vehicles to force the refugees back to their country on Friday.

The UNHCR's delegate in the capital of Bujumbura planned to meet with the Burundian foreign minister, Berthiaume said.

Nteturuye said he was "stunned" by the criticism, insisting that the refugees had returned "voluntarily" and that UNHCR officials had registered them a few kilometers (miles) away.

But he also conceded that his country considered the refugee camps a source of insecurity for the region and of anxiety for the government.

Several thousand other refugees fled the camp, which held 12,800 people, for the surrounding hills. By Saturday morning the camp was deserted.

Rwandan authorities criticized the UNHCR for not providing vehicles to repatriate some 8,000 refugees who were "ready to return home."

The country shelters 75,000 Rwandan refugees who escaped a genocidal civil war in 1994 which left more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus dead.

This latest unrest came a day after reports that more than 300 civilians from Burundi's Hutu majority were killed during three army offensives in 10 days at the end of June in the Gitega Province.

The civilians, including women, children and the elderly, died during operations against Hutu rebels by troops of the regular army dominated by the Central African nation's Tutsi minority.

On July 3 a rebel Hutu attack on a tea factory in Teza, western Gitega, killed 98 people including women and children.

The situation in the province seemed to have calmed slightly, but sources had said that a large number of rebels were still using the region as a "corridor" for their movements. *(AFP)*

Germany Has Support for Permanent SC Seat: Kinkel

BONN — The international community supports Germany's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations' Security Council, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told the German daily *Welt am Sonntag.*

"With only a few exceptions, the international community manifestly believes that our country should have more responsibility within the United Nations," Kinkel said in an interview to be published Sunday.

This is why Germany should have a permanent seat, he said. "We could have—if we were expected to have greater responsibility— more rights of intervention."

The council now has 15 members, with Britain, China, France, Russia and the U.S. holding permanent seats. Other seats are rotated every two years among other UN member states.

Germany and Japan announced in 1992 their desire to have a permanent seat in the council, sparking heated protests from Italy, which said it too was defeated in World War II.

Protests also came from developing nations who said they feared being left out of a reform that will not grant them equal representation. Regional powers like Argentina, Brazil, India and Pakistan are also vying for permanent membership.

Kinkel has said on several occasions that Germany should have a permanent seat.

But Chancellor Helmut Kohl, after being conspicuously absent from the United Nations' 50th anniversary celebration in New York last October, said the issue was "to be handled very delicately" because of reluctance from Britain and France.

In the same interview Kinkel said Germany's financial contribution to the European Union should be lowered, adding that he hoped to see this change as part the EU's 1999 financial reforms. *(AFP)*

European Commissioner Urges Pakistan to Eradicate Child Labor

ISLAMABAD — Visiting European Commissioner Manuel Marin said here Sunday he had urged Pakistan government to take effective measures against bonded child labor in the country.

"We have received a positive response," he told a news conference after talks with Pakistani authorities.

Pakistan should develop a viable program to eliminate the exploitation of children and strictly enforce existing laws designed to eradicate the problem, he said.

Marin underlined European concern about child labour in various parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America, saying Pakistan was not being singled out.

Local laws prohibit parents or guardians to accept money in return for forcing their children in labor. Employment of children in hazardous occupations is also banned.

On the eve of Marin's visit here, the International Congress of Free Trade Unions and the European Trade Union Committee jointly urged the commissioner to find out if Pakistan had made progress in controlling the problem.

The unions demanded that preferential trading conditions currently accorded to Pakistan by the European Union be suspended if the situation were not improving.

During his visit, Marin also announced an agreement under which Europe-bound Basmati rice exports from Pakistan would be given the same concessions enjoyed by Indian rice.

He said the EU wanted to develop political dialogue in addition to economic and commercial relations with Pakistan, adding that a new treaty was being developed to this end.

A third of Pakistan's total annual exports, worth eight billion dollars, go to European markets, he said, adding that the figure had increased by 25 percent during the past two years.

He advised Pakistan to make its industrial production more competitive by diversifying, as exports were now confined to textiles, garments and leather.

Marin, who met Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto here Saturday, also held talks with Pakistan's foreign and commerce ministers. *(AFP)*

Burundi Forcing Out Rwandan Fefugees: UNHCR

GENEVA - Burundi is continuing to forcibly repatriate Rwandan Hutu refugees, the United Nations Refugee Agency said here Sunday.

It said convoys resumed Sunday after 3,300 Rwandans were expelled on Friday and Saturday.

Christiane Berthiaume, spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said Rwandans arriving at the agency's reception center in Butare were in poor health and very weak.

She said some had been transported in goods wagons where they were "crammed like animals and suffocated by sweat." She said some refugees had been attacked by Burundians living near a refugee camp evacuated by force on Friday.

She said most of the 12,800 Rwandan refugees in the Kibezi camp in northern Burundi were now in a football stadium awaiting expulsion and others had fled.

Berthiaume said only the Red Cross in Burundi had been authorized to give the refugees food and water on Sunday.

In the neighbouring camp of Ruvumu, which the convoys pass on their way from Kibezi to the Rwandan border, about half the 16,000 refugees were missing.

The UNHCR said it was possible they had fled and sought shelter at other refugee camps in Burundi.

The UNHCR said it had seen an increase in the number of Rwandans requesting voluntary repatriation in "normal" conditions since the forced clear out began.

Burundi shelters 75,000 Rwandan refugees who escaped a genocidal civil war in 1994 which left more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus dead.

On Saturday a Burundi government spokesman denied the refugees were being forced out.

Marc Nteturuye said he was "stunned" by the UNHCR criticism and insisted the refugees had returned "voluntarily."

The UNHCR delegate in the capital Bujumbura planned to meet Burundi's foreign minister over the issue, Berthiaume said.

(AFP)

Half of Bangladesh Gripped by Flash Floods

DHAKA — Flash floods have affected 2.2 million people across half of Bangladesh, the Relief Ministry reported Sunday, amid opposition criticism of government relief efforts.

A ministry spokesman said 33 of a total 64 administrative districts across the north, northwest and northeast of this riverine country have been hit by the floods, the second round since early June.

He said preliminary estimates put the losses into several million dollars, but exact figures were not yet available.

The spokesman put the official death toll in the most recent inundations at six people, although the unofficial count in more than two months of flooding stood at 31.

"The districts of Faridpur, Munshiganj and Manikganj were hit by the flash floods overnight and the government ... (is) sending aid to the affected people," the spokesman said, adding that the Red Crescent Society and other humanitarian agencies were helping with relief efforts.

"Government ministers are supervising aid operations in some areas along with army and paramilitary troopers," he said.

An aide to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed said she was monitoring the situation.

Main opposition leader and ex-Premier Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party charged that the government has failed to provide adequate aid to the flood victims.

"The ruling Awami League has failed to discharge its duty in aiding adequately the flood victims," the independent newspaper quoted her as saying Saturday.

Accompanied by her elder son Tarek, Zia started a three-day tour Friday of some of the flood-affected areas, including her constituency of northern Bogra district.

The government's flood forecasting center said central and southern Bangladesh, as yet unaffected by the latest flooding, would be hit during the next several days, but the situation would remain static in most other areas.

The worst-hit north and northwestern districts of Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh and Dinajpur were likely to improve Sunday, it predicted.

However, river water levels rose further Sunday, with some major rivers exceeding danger levels. Light to heavy rains were forecast across Bangladesh Sunday.

A local official from norhtern Gaibandha district said by telephone that thousands of people were forced to leave their homes for higher ground as flood waters drained into the Bay of Bengal.

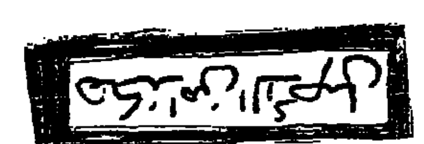
Embankments have been washed away or damaged by surging waters, he said. *(AFP)*





DOHA, Qatar (July 20): Combo of pictures of the three brothers (fr L to R) Ali Nasser Megareh al-Merri, Hazzam Nasser al-Merri and Rashid al-Merri, defendants in the shooting of a gas station in Al-Wajba near the Royal palace last May. According to the official Qatari agency QNA, the three men confessed the actig in a sabotage operation under the authority of exiled son Sheikh Jassem of former Qatari Emir, Sheikh Khalifa ben Hamad al-Thani.

(AFP PHOTO)





ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 20): Turkey's Halil Mutlu lifts 132.5 kg in the snatch to beat his own world record at the Georgia World Congress Center. Mutlu won the gold medal in the overall 54-kg weightlifting division.

(AFP PHOTO)

Turkey's Mutlu Sets World Record on Way to Gold

ATLANTA — Turkey's Halil Mutlu beat his own snatch world record on his way to overall Olympic Games gold in the 54 kilogram weightlifting division on Saturday.

After setting a world record of 132.5 kilograms in the snatch, to beat his old mark of 130.5 kilgrams, the tiny Turk hoisted 155 kilograms in the clean and jerk for a winning total of 287.5 kilograms.

China's Zhang Xiangsen finished second on 280 kilograms (130 kg in the snatch and 150 kg in the clean and jerk) with Sevdalin Minchev of Bulgaria in third on 277.5 kg (125 kg and 152.5 kg).

The win gave Mutlu ample revenge for his world championship defeat by Zhang in China last year. On that occasion they both lifted a total of 285 kilograms but the Chinese won because of his lighter body weight.

Zhang had a chance to take the gold with the second last lift of the competition on Saturday. He opted to go for 157.5 kilograms after failing at 150 kilograms but dropped the bar after tottering for several seconds.

In the lead up to his world record, Mutlu comfortably lifted 125 kiolgrams followed by 130 kilograms and looked odds on to beat his own mark set at the European championships in Poland in March, 1995. After pacing a several steps he moved forward, composed himself and with biceps bulging forced the quivering bar above his head.

He took a few, faltering steps but soon steadied and the judges ruled it a good lift — signaling a little jig of delight from the delighted Turk.

Mutlu was thrilled by the victory and publicly thanked Turkey's best known lifter, two-time Olympic champion Naim Suleymanoglou, for inspiring him to reach the pinnacle of the sport.

"This is a beautiful thing but it will only be tomorrow when I can fully appreciate it — the world record in the snatch won it for me," he said, beaming widely. "I know tomorrow I will be really happy.

"Naim is a great lifter and has been a wonderful example for me. I hope I can go on to achieve what he has done. Since I started this sport when I was 10. I have always taken him as an example. He has been very influential in my career."

Mutlu said that he could not look when Zhang made the attempt which would have clinched the Chinese the gold medal.

"I did not watch the lift," he admitted. "He tried to reach the ultimate but failed. If I were in his position I would have done the same — I salute him."

Zhang's face after the competition mirrored his disappointment at coming so close to adding the Olympic title to his world crown.

"I am really sad but I am still young and I have a chance to win at another Olympics," said the 23-year-old Zhang. "I aggravated an old injury to my right elbow in the snatch competition and if I had not done that I think I could have won — I was very close to lifting the 157.5 kilograms I needed". (AFP)

Olympics Medals Table

ATLANTA — Olympic medal table after the first day of the 26th Olympic Games in Atlanta on Saturday. (AFP)

	gold	silver	bronze	total
China	2	2	0	4
Belgium	1	0	1	2
France	1	0	1	2
Ireland	1	0	0	1
Italy	1	0	0	1
Poland	1	0	0	1
Russia	1	0	0	1
Turkey	1	0	0	1
New Zealand	1	0	0	1
Germany	0	2	3	5
United States	0	2	1	3
Cuba	0	2	0	2
Brazil	0	1	0	1
Spain	0	1	0	1
Bulgaria	0	0	2	2
Hungary	0	0	2	2
Australia	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1

Kovacs Aiming to Take Advantage of Bantamweight Draw

ATLANTA — European champion Istvan Kovacs fired his opening volley in the battle for the bantamweight gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics with an convincing victory here Saturday.

Kovacs, the 1991 world champion, negotiated Turkey's Soner Karaoz, winning with ease 15-3 and is maneuvering to take full advantage of the coming skirmishes between medal contenders, American Zahir Raheem, Cuba's Arnaldo Mesa and Russia's reigning world champion Rai Kul Malakhbekov in the others half of the draw.

Kovacs' longer reach was a clear advantage as Karaoz kept shifting his stance in a bid to get back into the fight after the stylish Hungarian had established an 8-2 margin after two round.

"The first fight is always hard," said 25-year-old Kovacs, who says he was influenced to box by American great Ray Leonard.

"It will always be hard to get to a gold medal, but it gets a little easier after the first fight.

"Every fight is dangerous but the first fight is always the worst...I felt I fought all right."

Earlier on saturday Raheem sent the home crowd into raptures with his slashing points decision over North Korean Hoe Jong-Gil to set up a second round rumble with Mesa.

The seasoned Mesa clobbered ungainly John Larbi 19-5, constantly beating his nervous Swedish opponent to the punch over the three rounds.

Malakhbekov was behind on points early in the second round before gaining control in a 16-6 points verdict over Puerto Rican Jose Cotto.

Another eye-catching performence in the 54 kg bantamweight class was Thailand's Air Force officer Khadpo Vichairachanon in his third and last Olympic Games.

Khadpo overcame the first round hurdle for the first time with an overwhelming points decision battering Canadian Claude Lambert with his spearing left hand to handsomely move into the second round in a 12-2 points verdict.

In the welterweight division, American Fernando Vargas and Cuba's world champion and Barcelona silver medalist Juan Hernandez stood out in Saturday's opening round.

The 19-year-old Vargas, who is one of the stars and stripes' bright young boxing hopefuls, made it two out of two for the U.S. when he mastered wily Georgian southpaw Tengiz Meskhadze to win his opening engagement 10-4 on points.

"Fighting in the United States is great," enthused Vargas. "We don't want anyone to come into our home and violate us.

"We are going to bring home a lot of golds."

With three-time Olympic champion Teofilo Stevenson watching in the stands, Hernandez left Hungarian opponent Jazcef Nagy a bloodied mess. The referee stopping the contest 1min 38secs into the second round.

In the bottom half of the draw, South Korean Bae Mo-Jo was given a standing ovation after outslugging Argentine Guillermo Saluto to take the pulse-racer on points 11-7.

"He's very tough and I fought as hard as I could," said Bae. "I wasn't thinking about the score, rather I was thinking about the fight itself."

Bae now takes on Russian Oleg Saitov, who crushed Turkey's Cahit Sume, 11-1.

Australia had a disastrous start to the Olympic tournament. Lynden Hosking was stopped by Nurzhan Smanov of Kazakhstan in 1min 42secs of the second round of a one-sided welterweight contest and James Swan was peppered by Tunisian Kalai Riadh in a 14-4 points decision in the bantamweight class. (AFP)

Le's Gold Fails to Make Up for Chinese Swimming Nightmare

ATLANTA, Georgia — Le Jingyi's brilliant gold medal swim here on Saturday could not make up for out the disastrous performances of her much-fancied compatriots.

Le's victory in the 100m freestyle on the first day of competition at the Olympic pool was a proud respond to the seemingly endless doping accusations levelled against the Chinese women swimmers.

"Those allegations are completely groundless, and I think what those people are saying is tantamount to slander," an angry Le told reporters after collecting her gold medal.

But Le's performance could not stop eyebrows being raised at the crushing failure of three others Chinese women — all hot medal favorites — to even qualify for their finals on Saturday.

Chen Yan and Wu Yanyan, who were ranked first and second in the world in the 400m individual medley before Atlanta, finished 17th and 18th respectively in their qualifying round, while 100m freestyle favorite Shan Ying missed out on her final by posting the ninth fastest qualifying time.

The Chinese coaches attributed the poor results to youth and inexperiece, although they also complained bitterly about a series of false fire alarms at their accommodation in the Olympic Village.

"The Olympic Games are totally different from any other event, and the younger swimmers were extremely nervous and so performed well below their best," said head coach Zhou Ming.

"Still, it was a good experience for them, and now I think our main task is to get them mentally prepared for the rest of the events."

Zhou and his fellow coaches also railed at olympic Village officials over the fire scares at their building in recent days.

"There have been three false alarms so far, but the worst occurred at two o'clock this morning while all the swimmers were fast asleep," Zhou said.

"We had to get them out of bed and down the fire escape and then we stood around for about an hour.

"Of course something like that is going to affect their performances."

(AFP)



ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 20): Cuban wrestler Wilber Sanchez Amita (L) and U.S. wrestler Mujaahid Maynard fight in the 48 kg Greco-Roman wrestling event at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The event runs from July 20-23.

(AFP PHOTO)